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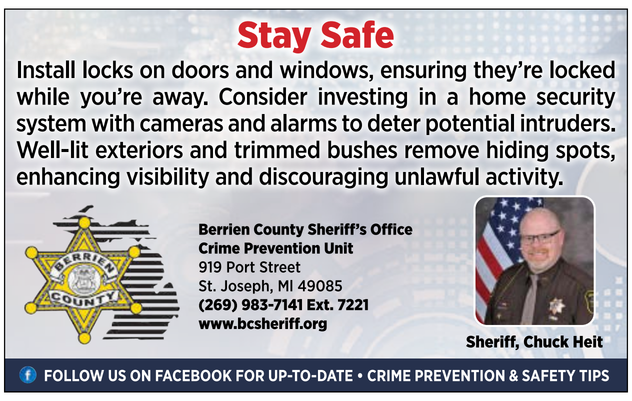

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Buchanan to host 'World's Largest Olympics Watch Party'

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
The World's Largest Olympic Watch Party in Buchanan 2021.

COMMUNITY REPORT

BUCHANAN — The City of Buchanan will once again host the World's Biggest Olympic Watch Party for Buchanan native and Olympic Medalist Hannah Roberts.

Mayor Sean Denison announced that the watch party will take place at 7 a.m. Wednesday, July 31 at the Buchanan Common with a rebroadcast at 7:00 p.m. at the same location. Hannah will compete for the Gold Medal in the Paris Olympics in the BMX Freestyle Event.

Buchanan currently boasts the title of "World's Biggest Olympic Watch Party in History" that was earned in 2021 when Hannah competed and brought home the Silver Medal from the Tokyo Olympics. Nearly 3,000 people watched from Buchanan as Roberts became the first woman to land a 360-degree tail whip in competition alongside her parents and family who were unable to attend the event in person due to COVID constraints.

The Paris 2024 Watch Party will feature a large Jumbotron TV on the Buchanan Common which will air the live competition from Paris. The event is free to the public and all are invited to come out and cheer Roberts on. The Common is an outdoor venue and spectators are asked to bring their own chairs and be prepared for any weather conditions.

"Hannah competed in the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 and won the Silver Medal in front of what NBC Sports has called the largest Watch Party in Olympic history with estimated attendance between two to three thousand," Denison said of the event. "All of Buchanan was out that night and we came together as one. It was truly one of the most memorable events in Buchanan history.

See WATCH, Page A8

Buchanan commissioners table LiveBuchanan items

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

BUCHANAN — Buchanan City Commissioners have postponed action on formalizing the relationship between the city and a local economic development organization called LiveBuchanan after both commissioners and residents raised questions.

Commissioners had been asked to approve two measures related to LiveBuchanan at their meeting Monday night. The first was a resolution acknowledging the partnership between the city and LiveBuchanan with the second outlining the agreement between the two entities.

The proposed agreement would have the city pay LiveBuchanan $56,000 a year for five years to pay for the organization's programming and projects as well as classes, professional development and other training associated with being a Michigan Main Street community.

That amount would not include the salary of Assistant Community Development Director Ashley Regal or the use of space in City Hall, City Manager Tim Lynch said. Regal would remain a city employee although she would be assisting LiveBuchanan. Lynch called LiveBuchanan a "quasi-governmental organization" although it is not part of city government.

The motions to table both items were approved on 4-1 votes with Mayor Sean Denison voting no. Although no date was given as to when the two items will come back for a vote, Commissioner Larry Money urged the commission to hold a special meeting as soon as possible to clear up people's questions.

Commissioners had different reasons for tabling the items. Dan Vigansky is still pushing for the restoration of the DDA disbanded by commissioners in 2020, while Patrick Swem and Mark Weedon said they wanted to have their questions cleared up. Money maintained that it was just a matter of "dotting the 'i's and crossing the 't'."

"This is a $250,000 plus commitment, it needs our attorney's eyes on it before we move forward," Swem said.

Weedon said the strides made by LiveBuchanan "cannot absolutely be dismissed". "Don't take this vote to mean that we don't support you," he said. "This postponement is not indicative of our final decision. It is needed to make sure we make the right decision for all of Buchanan."

For his part, Denison said he and others who make up the LiveBuchanan board have volunteered their time when no other business owners wanted to take part. He said the volunteers have been harassed as those opposed to LiveBuchanan have spread lies.

City Clerk Kalla Langston read summaries of written comments received on the subject before the vote. Eight people submitted written comments opposed to the proposal while one person wrote in support of LiveBuchanan.

LiveBuchanan board member and business owner Randy Hendrixson said it's important for the city

See TABLE, Page A7

SWEET DREAMS MADE OF TEAS

Niles approves loan increase for Apothica Teas projects

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — A popular downtown Niles business will continue its expansion projects with support from the City of Niles.

The Niles City Council voted 7-1 Monday to approve Laura Hollister's loan increase of $18,000 and refinance request for her business, Apothica Teas. The business, located at 222 E. Main St., has a current loan agreement for $20,380 from the city's Revolving Loan Fund and the balance due is $6,504. The request is to refinance the term

See TEAS, Page A8

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Apothica Teas has called downtown Niles home since 2019.

PIC celebrates expansion, rebrand with ribbon-cutting ceremony

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES CHARTER TOWNSHIP — A local manufacturer celebrated its expansion and rebrand Friday, July 19 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Members of the Greater Niles Area Chamber of Commerce were on hand to celebrate Pratt Intermodal Chassis, a leading manufacturer of container chassis located at 2070 S 3rd St., Niles. PIC guided attendees through the 300,000 square-foot facility, where they were able to see how the chassis are manufactured and meet the employees that build them.

"What we're celebrating today is not so much a new opening but a new beginning and a transition with our new company name and brand," said Pratt Intermodal Chassis President Bryan Van Itallie.

The business was established in 1976 as

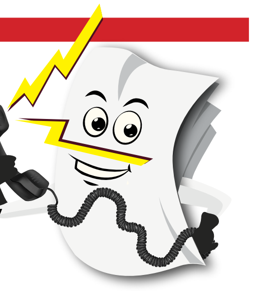
See PIC, Page A8

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Members of the Greater Niles Area Chamber of Commerce were on hand to celebrate PIC's expansion and rebrand Friday, July 19 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

OBITUARIES

William Blanton
Lillian L. Owen
Jeffery Paul Wetzel
David Nelson McClelland Jr
Roger Tumbleson
James Rothrock
Michael Opulskas
Charlene Gast
Robert Szamecki
James Franklin Grady Sr.
Charles M. Lindley Sr.
Rex A. Beal

A6



FRANKLY
TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

"Now who's the old man running for the Oval Office? A2

Sweep
Buchanan duo take top two spots at Steve's Run

B1

FRANKLY

TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

What is Frankly? It is where readers sound off on issues of the day. Have a tip, quip or blip? Call Frankly at (269) 687-7702 or email scott.novak@leaderpub.com

“I paid $120 for a product. To my surprise, there was no pamphlet inside with necessary instructions. I have to read the instructions on-line for the sake of green energy, according to the company. Why is everything going on-line? The Internet failed us recently. And it will again. Bad moments are coming for our Internet trust.”

“Are Diversity, Equity and Inclusion important to you when you choose your heart surgeon? Being qualified for a role in our government appears to not be the top priority. Sadly, DEI often is.”

“‘Unity’ my *%&%$^! After 15 minutes, Trump was back to his voting conspiracy garbage and Nancy bashing. I’m not sure how this unifies the country.”

“Biden is putting the US ahead of himself. I give him credit for stepping down and letting the next, newest generation take us forward.”

“Now who’s the old man running for the Oval Office?”

“Biden should have stepped down 6 months ago. Now it is a rush to the finish line. He had four years to make up his mind.”

“I’m glad Trump is ok. The US cannot have this nonsense.”

“Did the GOP offer “thoughts and prayers” to Donald Trump?”

“J.D. Vance said Trump is an “idiot” and “reprehensible” and compared him to Adolf Hitler. My how things have changed when your political career gets a shot at the big time.”

“Biden stepping down is the very best thing that could have happened to this country.”

“If the former is not safe, then none of us can be safe anywhere at any time in this country. ”

“Apothica is such an amazing spot to have in our small town!! Love seeing them constantly growing!!”

WEATHER

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Sunny	50% Chance of Storms	50% Chance of Storms	50% Chance of Storms	Partly Cloudy	40% Chance of Rain
83°	80°	85°	83°	83°	85°
63°	67°	70°	67°	68°	69°

A SIZZLING SUCCESS

Weez’s Groovin’ BBQ wins annual Dowagiac BBQ Competition

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — 26 pitmasters from across the country descended on downtown Dowagiac Saturday, July 20 to compete for top honors in its second annual Dowagiac BBQ Competition.

When the charcoal settled, Brian Calhoun of Grace Lake. Ill. took home Grand Champion honors as Weez’s Groovin’ BBQ after earning fourth and second places in both the chicken and rib categories. Cameron McKee’s Skinny Pig BBQ of South Beloit, Ill. earned Reserve Grand Champion with 11th and first place finishes in chicken and ribs respectively. Lisa Larson and Jamie Jackson of Too Sauced Guys Bar-B-Que placed first in chicken and sixth in ribs for a sixth-place finish overall.

“I’m stoked,” McKee said. “To not even get a top 10 and to be considered for Reserve, it’s insane. I just had a really high rib score and then I had 11 for chicken. I’m blown away.”

The competition was sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbecue Society – the largest competitive barbecue organization in the world. The event brought 26 pitmasters, 26 judges and enthusiasts from all over the country to downtown Dowagiac.

The competition was fierce, with KCBS-certified BBQ judges judging the meats based on KCBS standards. The win was a pleasant surprise for McKee, who personally felt his chicken turned out better than his ribs.

“When they called chicken and I wasn’t even in the top ten, I’m like ‘well, there goes the day,’” he said. I’ve been fifth place in chicken three times in a row and I just can’t seal the deal. My ribs have been all over the place so I kept adjusting

See BBQ, Page B3

BBQ
TITION
DOWAGIAC
2024

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Cameron McKee’s Skinny Pig BBQ of South Beloit, Ill. earned Reserve Grand Champion in the second annual Dowagiac BBQ Competition.

U-HAUL
Too Sauced Guys

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

26 pitmasters from across the country descended on downtown Dowagiac Saturday to compete for top honors in its second annual Dowagiac BBQ Competition.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN TABERNACLE:

Please take notice that a special meeting of the members of the above named church will be held at the Niles Public Library in the Board Room in the city of Niles, MI on the 29th day of July, AD 2024 at the hour of 6:00 in the p.m. for the purpose of considering action on the removal of Morton Trent Avance as pastor due violation of By-Law 19 and dereliction of pastoral duties.

Dated July 10, 2024.

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Secretary, Sherry Barnes Pollack
Treasurer, William Lawson
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Director, Joan Tobar

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MAXWELL HARDEN
LEADER PUBLICATIONS
LEFT: Kortney and Ted Romanetz opened Cassopolis Beer Company this week.

‘A space for everyone’: Cassopolis Beer Company opens downtown

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

CASSOPOLIS — A building that has watched over downtown Cassopolis for nearly 130 years is now offering tasty brews, bar bites and more to the community.

The Cassopolis Beer Company, 139 N. Broadway St., opened its doors for the first time Monday afternoon. Owned by Ted and Kortney Romanetz, CBC features a variety of beer brewed on site, a tap room where visitors can enjoy beer, wine, cider, craft sodas and neo-neapolitan wood fired-style pizzas, appetizers and salads as well as a spacious outdoor patio.

The brewing space features several fermentation tanks, sleeved in jackets and connected to a thermostat to control the precise temperatures required for various-styles of beer. A sealed cold-room houses 2,000-pound vessels resting on an insulated floor, a feat which required finding a floor that could handle the weight and building the room around the vessels once they were in place.

“It was a lot of excitement, joy and fear,” Kortney said. “We just felt like we were finally ready. We did all we could do and we just gotta go for it and see what happens. People love the beer, so that’s really exciting.”

The restaurant is conducting a “soft” opening this week, with hours from 3 to 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday to make sure its systems are in order. Once it is officially open, hours will be 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week.

“We’re hoping to get a lot of locals in here and host certain events and stuff to get us through the winter months and kind of bring people down to this area during that time so that we can be open every day and keep consistency,” Kortney said.

The soft openings were well-attended with community members who were excited to see the space brought to life again. The building, which was originally built in 1895, was home to the Central Cass Fire Department until its relocation to M-60 in 2017.

Local Jim Beebe was happy to see the brewery open and hopes the it will become an entertainment destination for people from Cassopolis and beyond.

“I’m just really happy to see the community growing and expanding and making Cassopolis a destination,” he said. “I can bring my friends here to entertain them and not have to go someplace else.”

The Romanetzes come to the area from Colorado. Ted, who grew up in Mishawaka, was familiar with the village. He met Kortney in college and lived with her in Colorado until moving back to the area to open the brewery.

Ted worked as a brewer in Colorado for almost seven years, coming from a background in water chemistry. He described his style as gravitating toward, lagers, pilsners, and IPAs. He hopes to have beers that those more used to classic domestics can enjoy.

While he brews beer, Kortney will focus on front room operations. Large ovens serve up neo-neapolitan wood fired-style pizzas, inspired by favorite pizzas from Colorado and named after their favorite places there. Appetizers and salads will also be offered, with the eventual plans to

See OPENS, Page B3

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

July 26
High school reunion

The Niles High School Class of 1969 is celebrating its 55 year reunion with a Friday evening gathering July 26 and reunion Saturday evening July 27, 2024. Invitations with further details will be emailed or mailed in May. Classmates can submit or update their email and mailing addresses to the reunion committee at nilesclass69@aol.com.

October 13
Newton House Festival

The Cass County Historical Society is excited to announce its annual Fall Festival, taking place from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 13. The event will be held at the Newton House, located at 20689 Marcellus Highway, Decatur, MI, on the historical grounds. There will be guided tours of the Newton House, live music and a silent auction. Local artisans will be showcasing their talents, and Civil War reenactors will be on site with a cannon firing demonstration.

The event will also feature complimentary cider, popcorn, apples, cookies and a variety of activities including hayrides, a petting zoo and kids yard games. A kids costume contest will also be held and new this year is its first annual kids pie-eating contest.

Dowagiac native and esteemed author Ron Kirkwood will be in attendance for readings and autographs of his new book on Gettysburg’s George Spangler Farm.

For more information, visit the Facebook pages for either the Newton House or the Cass County Historical Society.

Send calendar items to the newsroom at news@leaderpub.com, or drop them off at the office, 217 N. Fourth St., Niles.

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet **Goober**, a kitten with Paws of Hope.Goober is described to be as friendly as they come, eager to make friends and snuggle up for cuddles. He has a playful personality and loves to romp around with other cats, dogs and even small children. He is current on shots, FeLV-FIV negative, neutered when of age. Contact Paws of Hope at information@pawsofhope.org.

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Fourth Grade	1	Eleventh Grade	2
Fifth Grade	1	Twelfth Grade	1
Sixth Grade	2		

Applications are available and being accepted electronically, July 29 - August 16, 2024, at www.edwardsburgpublicschools.org for any Kindergarten - 12th grade student living in Cass County and contiguous districts in Berrien, St. Joseph, and Van Buren Counties. Please complete a separate application for each student.
For more information, contact Kimberly Slack at 269-663-3055 or kslack@goeddies.com.
Additional spots will be considered as they become available.

Man dies in reported Juno Lake drowning

STAFF REPORT

MASON TOWNSHIP — A man has died after drowning in Juno Lake in Mason Township, according to the Cass County Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Richard J. Behnke reports that at approximately 9:53 p.m. Sunday, his office was called for a man that had fallen out of a Kayak in Juno Lake in.

Investigation shows that a male was fishing in a kayak when he fell out of the kayak and was unable to swim. The Cass County Marine Division/ Dive Team was called to the scene. The Cass County Marine Deputies and Dive Team, along with the Indian Lake Dive Team were able to locate and recover the male kayaker. The male was pronounced deceased at the scene.

A Lifejacket was not worn. Alcohol may have been a factor in this incident. This incident remains under investigation.

Assisting with this incident were SEPSA Fire, SEPSA Ambulance, Indian Lake Fire and Dive Team, and Penn Fire/ Drone.

Niles man gets jail time for fleeing police

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

NILES — Two area residents were sentenced to jail Monday in Berrien County Trial Court at the Niles courthouse.

Reynolds

Michael James Reynolds, 61, of Niles, pleaded guilty to third degree fleeing and eluding and was sentenced to 250 days in jail with credit for 76 days served. He must also pay $198 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred May 7 in Niles when Reynolds fled from police on a motorcycle before he crashed it. Reynolds was sentenced to probation in February in Cass County Circuit Court for possession of methamphetamine.

Defense attorney Daniel French said Reynolds regretted his actions that day and has taken classes to improve himself in jail. French said his client knows that he and others could have hurt or killed if the incident had turned out differently.

"He walked away with some bumps and bruises but it could have ended up worse," he said.

"I am regretful of my actions, they were totally out of line," Reynolds said. "I'm taking classes to think more clearly. I wasn't taking drugs that day but I was stupid to run that day … I think the Lord had his hands on me to knock me down."

Reynolds concluded by saying "I'm getting too old for this, I'm tired of it."

"I always wonder if people think they can get away when they flee police," Berrien County Trial Court Judge Jennifer Smith said. "The first officer cut off his pursuit before you crashed. I also think of the officers and others on the road, they could have been killed or injured. You have to start thinking of others."

Judge Smith noted that she could have sentenced Reynolds to prison since his guidelines called for a sentence of between 12 and 24 months in prison but that she decided not to. "I considered sending you to prison, this was certainly a dangerous activity," she said. "But I think jail is appropriate given the circumstances."

A man whose father was sentenced to jail last week was also given a jail sentence.

Gino Anthony Miltroka, 20, of South Bend, pleaded guilty to attempted carrying a concealed weapon and was sentenced to 10 days in jail with credit for two days served and $258 in fines and costs. His firearm was forfeited.

The incident occurred Jan. 5 in Bertrand Township.

Miltroka's father, Jason Miltroka, was given a similar sentence last week for the same charge and same incident.

Miltroka

French said that there had been a "lot of bad choices" that led to the incident in which the father and son brought guns into Michigan where they had come to buy marijuana. He noted that Indiana and Michigan have different laws when it comes to both items.

"It was me being ignorant for not looking up the law," Miltroka said. "I made the wrong decision."

"When your father was sentenced, I talked of other things going on," Judge Smith said. "You came here to go to a dispensary for marijuana which is illegal in Indiana. Then you were driving with a suspended license and not completely forthcoming with the officers."

"You're correct, it would have been easy to find out the laws," she added. "It's your responsibility if you want to carry a gun to know the laws. You're not on a good path here. You used marijuana while you were on bond even thought it was against the bond conditions."

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel signs Senate Bill 602 into law as acting governor. Nessel was joined by members of the Michigan Realtors, representatives of the Department of Attorney General, and her son.

AG Nessel signs bill into law as acting governor

COMMUNITY REPORT

LANSING — Thursday, Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel, while serving as acting governor, signed Senate Bill 602 into law.

The legislation, sponsored by state Senator Kevin Hertel, amends the Occupational Code to specify conditions under which a right-to-list home sale agreement between a residential property owner and a real estate broker would be void and unenforceable.

"Senate Bill 602 strengthens protections for homeowners by prohibiting unfair practices in real estate transactions," Nessel said. "Many homeowners have faced predatory right-to-list agreements that lock them into unfavorable terms. This legislation provides much-needed clarity and protects both property owners and real estate professionals. I am honored to have the opportunity to sign this legislation into law."

"Selling a home is never an easy thing to do, and when realtors engage in predatory practices, it becomes even more difficult," said Senator Hertel. "Michigan property owners deserve the ability to make informed decisions about a monumental life event without fear of coercion or deception. This legislation will help us achieve this by curbing exploitative right-to-list home sale agreements and putting the best interests of homeowners at the forefront."

A right-to-list home sale agreement is an agreement between an owner of residential real estate and a real estate broker that obligates the owner to list the residential real estate for sale with the real estate broker at a future date in exchange for consideration. Senate Bill 602 indicates that such an agreement would be void and unenforceable in several instances, including if any of the following apply to the agreement:

- It is not in writing;
- It is not signed by all persons that have an ownership interest in the residential real estate considered in the agreement;
- It is for a period of more than 2 years; or
- It does not include an option for the owner to terminate the agreement as specified in the new law.

The new law subjects real estate brokers who enter into void and unenforceable agreements to penalties, including license revocation, administrative fines up to $10,000, restitution, and probation.

The Michigan Constitution allows the Attorney General to be acting governor and have the authority to sign legislation in the event the governor, lieutenant governor, and secretary of state are away from the State.

Niles greenlights annual Riverfest

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — A longtime staple event returns to downtown Niles next week.

On Monday, the city council voted 7-1 to the Riverfront Optimist Club's request to conduct the festival at Riverfront Park from Thursday, Aug. 1 through Sunday, Aug. 4. However, the council stopped short of reimbursing the $100 late fee as requested by the Optimist Club.

Council members were split on the issue with four opposed and four against. Mayor Nick Shelton broke the 4-4 vote by siding with those opposed to the reimbursement, citing a desire to see applications turned in on time as it was their second offense this year after turning in the 2024 Bluegrass Festival application late. A new motion was then presented which approved the request sans the waiving of the late fee.

According to Shelton, the reason given by the ROC was that there are new volunteers within the organization that have taken on the projects.

"I think we have to set the precedent that if your application is late, there's a penalty for that while still supporting the organizers in our community, especially as these new regulations come in from MDOT and for the events that require use of the roadway," he said. "It's just crucial that people get your applications in on time."

The festival will feature bounce houses, games, music and food and craft vendors. The city will pay for utilities, police presence and police barricades for a total cost of $1,250.

Councilmember Michael Thompson cast the dissenting vote.

"I'm of the mind that we shouldn't be paying for any of this anyway," he said.

Niles approves DART pay increase

In other business, the council approved a pay increase for Dial-A-Ride Transportation drivers and dispatchers to $19.00 per hour, with such expense covered by DART's budget.

Niles DART serves the greater Niles-Buchanan area. Driver and dispatcher recruitment have been difficult for a number of years but has become increasingly difficult over the past three years as competition for qualified drivers and dispatchers has increased. In addition to driving their routes, drivers are hands on with their customers like assisting individuals with disabilities.

The proposed wage is more competitive with local school bus drivers' starting rate of $18 to $27.62 but comparable to other public transportation services. Niles's current base pay is $17.50 per hour for these positions. There are currently three open positions out of 13 total driver and dispatcher positions.

"The competition out there to get drivers is pretty tough, said Niles DART Manager Pepper Miller. "Everybody needs bus drivers and neighboring communities, Niles and Brandywine are always looking for bus drivers and so are we being public transportation, it's just tough competing with that. So I'm very happy to see that the council saw the need and said yes."

In further business, council:

- Approved a contract with Mead and Hunt, Inc. of Lansing to provide professional services for Phase I of the Runway 33 Approach Clearing Project at a total cost of $59,185.31, with 95 percent of the cost to be paid by Federal and State funds and 5 percent, or $2,959.26, to be paid from local airport funds.
- Authorized the Utilities Department to enter into a contract with Michigan Department of Transportation of Kalamazoo, Michigan for the relocation of overhead power lines at M-51 and Fort Street.
- Approved the renewal of the surcharge placed on customers' electric bills in accordance with Michigan's Low-income Energy Assistance Program.
- Authorized the Electric Division to engage Commonwealth Associates, Inc. of Jackson, Michigan to perform an arc flash hazard study, analysis, and calculations at a cost of $8,802 to ensure compliance with government mandates and regulations, charging the expense to the Electric Division Capital Improvement budget.
- Approved the Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment proposal of TRC of Grand Rapids at a cost of $14,650, charging the expense to the Electric Division.
- Accepted the bid from Tyler Home Improvement of Portage, Michigan in the amount of $87,250 for the repair of seven residential properties through the CDBG Home Repair Program with $50,000 being paid from CDBG Funds and the remaining $37,250 paid from area foundations.

Niles Daily Star

ADMINISTRATIVE
PUBLISHER
Rich Cains
(219) 455-2349
rich.cains@leaderpub.com

ACCOUNTING MANAGER
Rhonda Rauen
rhonda.rauen@leaderpub.com

CUSTOMER SERVICE & DISTRIBUTION
Donna Knight
(269) 687-7717
donna.knight@leaderpub.com

EDITORIAL
SPORTS EDITOR
Scott Novak
(269) 687-7702
scott.novak@leaderpub.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Maxwell Harden
231-750-5776
max.harden@leaderpub.com

ADVERTISING
Dennis Hinsey
(269) 362-1525
dennis.hinsey@leaderpub.com

DESIGN CENTER MANAGER
Allison Dale
allison.dale@leaderpub.com

GRAPHIC DESIGN
Joshua Turnock
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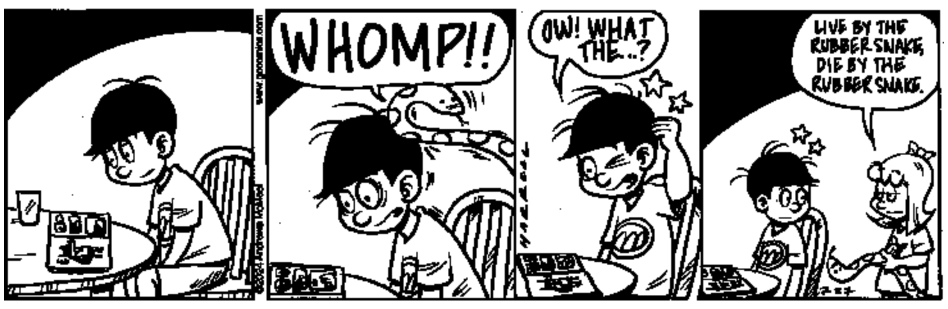
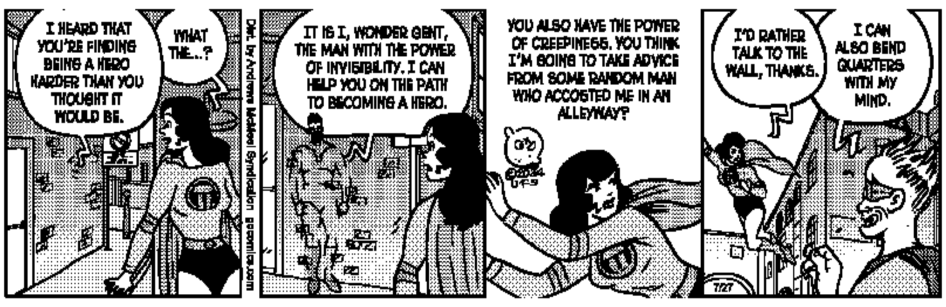
COMICS & PUZZLES

ADAM


WHOMP!!
OW! WHAT THE..?
LIVE BY THE RUBBER SNAKE, DIE BY THE RUBBER SNAKE.
www.gocomics.com
7-27

ALLEY OOP


I HEARD THAT YOU'RE FINDING BEING A HERO HARDER THAN YOU THOUGHT IT WOULD BE.
WHAT THE...?
IT IS I, WONDER GENT, THE MAN WITH THE POWER OF INVISIBILITY. I CAN HELP YOU ON THE PATH TO BECOMING A HERO.
YOU ALSO HAVE THE POWER OF CREEPINESS. YOU THINK I'M GOING TO TAKE ADVICE FROM SOME RANDOM MAN WHO ACCOSTED ME IN AN ALLEYWAY?
I'D RATHER TALK TO THE WALL, THANKS.
I CAN ALSO BEND QUARTERS WITH MY MIND.
Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication gocomics.com
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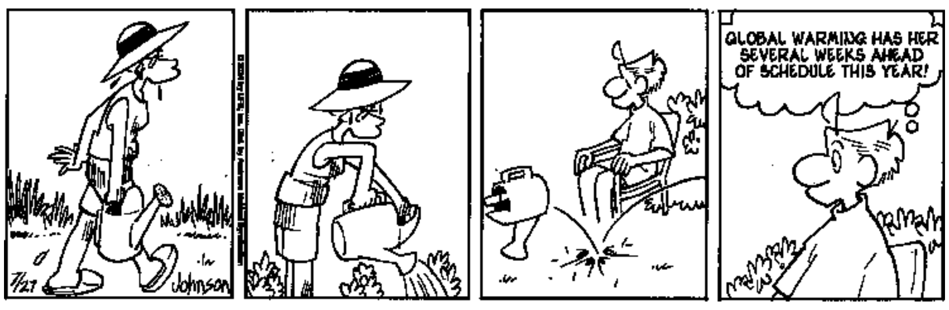
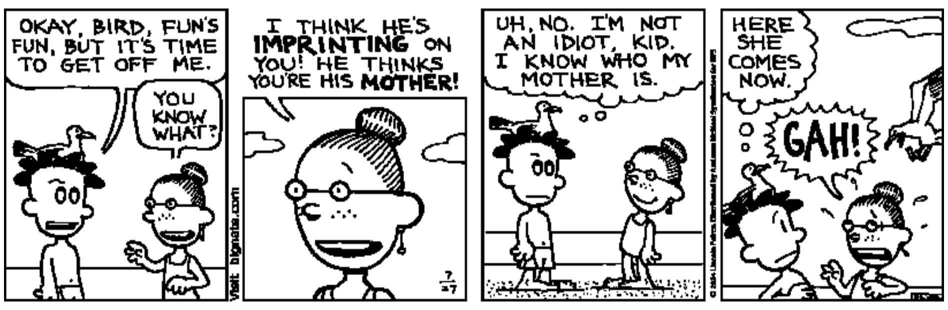
7/27

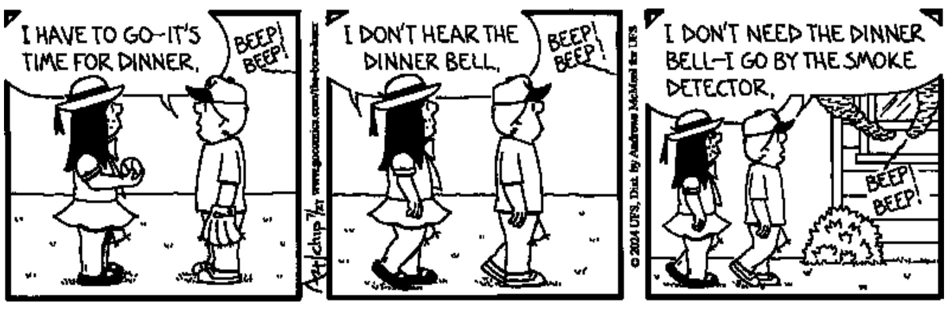
ARLO & JANIS


GLOBAL WARMING HAS HER SEVERAL WEEKS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE THIS YEAR!
7/27
Johnson

BIG NATE


OKAY, BIRD, FUN'S FUN, BUT IT'S TIME TO GET OFF ME.
YOU KNOW WHAT?
I THINK HE'S IMPRINTING ON YOU! HE THINKS YOU'RE HIS MOTHER!
UH, NO. I'M NOT AN IDIOT, KID. I KNOW WHO MY MOTHER IS.
HERE SHE COMES NOW.
GAH!
Visit bignate.com
7/27

BORN LOSER


I HAVE TO GO—IT'S TIME FOR DINNER.
BEEP! BEEP!
I DON'T HEAR THE DINNER BELL.
BEEP! BEEP!
I DON'T NEED THE DINNER BELL—I GO BY THE SMOKE DETECTOR.
BEEP! BEEP!
Art Chip 7/27 www.gocomics.com/theborn-loser
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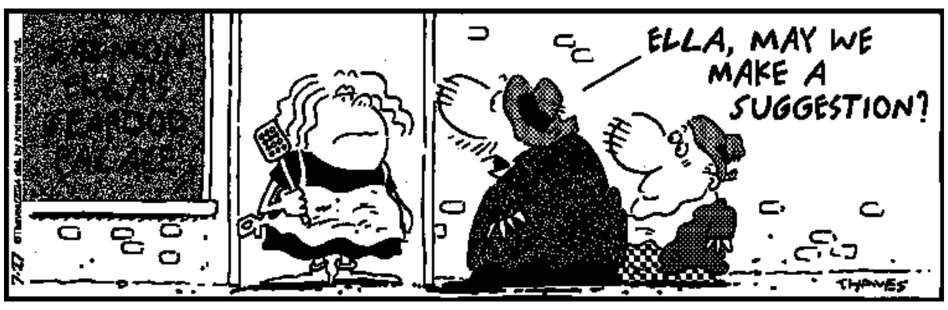
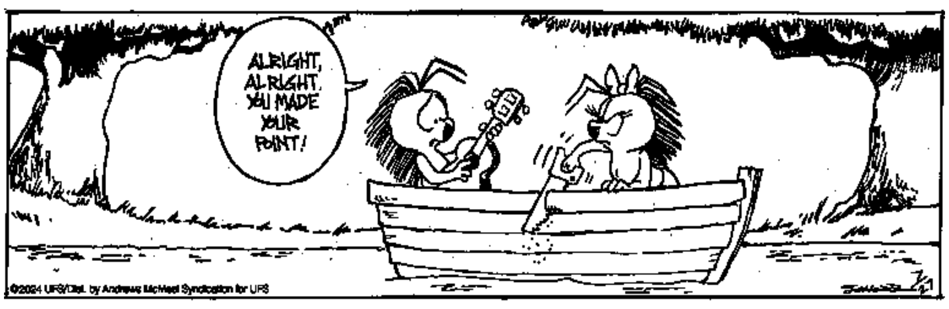
FRANK & ERNEST


ELLA, MAY WE MAKE A SUGGESTION?
7-27
©Thaves/2024 dist. by Andrews McMeel Synd.
THAVES

GRIZZWELLS


ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT. YOU MADE YOUR POINT!
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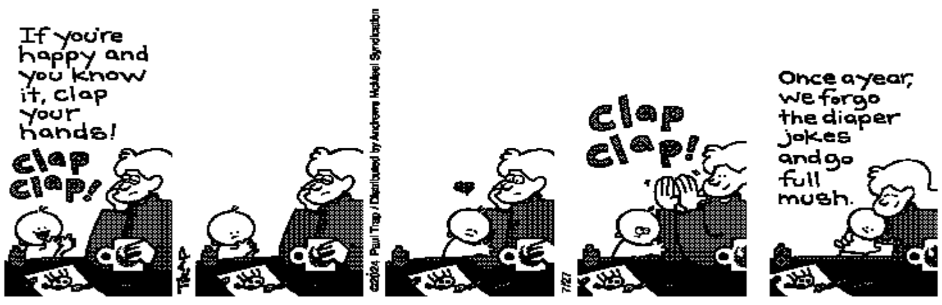
THATABABY


If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands!
clap clap!
clap clap!
Once a year, we forgo the diaper jokes and go full mush.
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7/27

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SODOKU PUZZLE

HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

DIFFICULTY RATING: 5/5

ANSWER ON PAGE 6

			3		1	5		
				6		9	7	
				7			2	1
	6	3		4				9
				1				
5				9		7	6	
8	7			5				
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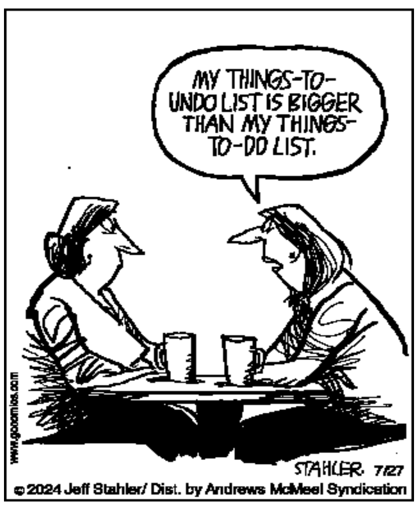
		1	9		7			

MODERATELY CONFUSED


MY THINGS-TO-UNDO LIST IS BIGGER THAN MY THINGS-TO-DO LIST.
www.gocomics.com
STAHLER 7/27

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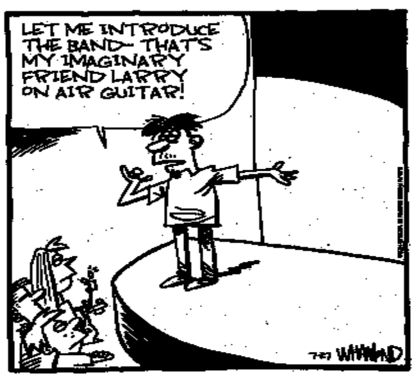
REALITY CHECK


LET ME INTRODUCE THE BAND— THAT'S MY IMAGINARY FRIEND LARRY ON AIR GUITAR!
7-27 WHAMD

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

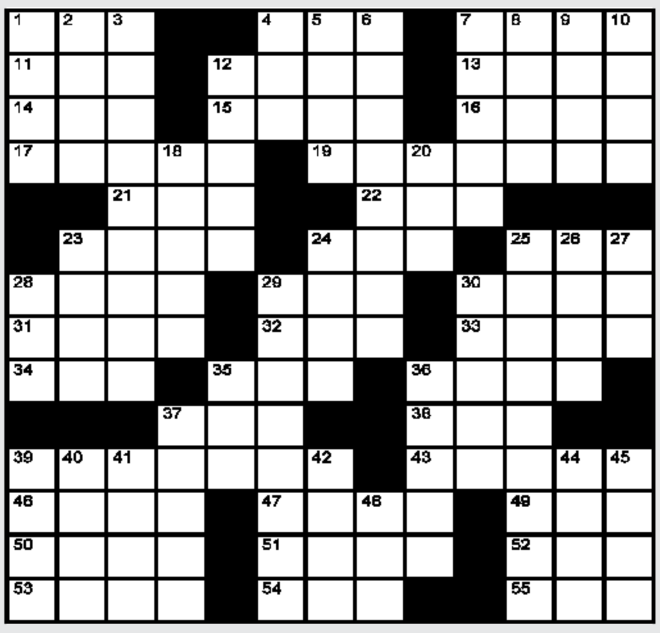
ACROSS

1 Cheer from the stands
4 Baseball's Ripken
7 Quarrel
11 Clean air org.
12 Island near Java
13 Two
14 "Do — — say ..."
15 Border on
16 Unseen emanation
17 Clemency
19 Butted in
21 Female animal
22 Caviar
23 Degree recipient
24 Dye vessel
25 — Tuesday (Mardi Gras)
28 Methods
29 In shape
30 Went down
31 "— — a Kick Out of You"
32 Sheltered side
33 Hodge-podge
34 Sailor
35 Forefoot
36 Parking lot sign
37 Liquor
38 "Born in the —"
39 "— and Old Lace"
43 Town in Georgia
46 Costa —
47 Proboscis
49 Nest egg letters
50 Apple product
51 Well-behaved
52 Pinna
53 Gainsay
54 Harvest goddess
55 Like a fox

DOWN

1 500 sheets
2 Domed church area
3 Salon item (2 wds.)
4 Hack
5 Astringent substance
6 Able to read and write
7 Shovel
8 Sir — McCartney
9 River in England
10 Jazz type
12 Howled
18 Go effortlessly
20 Speck
23 Rock's Lady —
24 Prospect
25 Mistaken beliefs
26 Indigo
27 Ring decision
28 Humor
29 Pink bird
30 March King
35 Play on words
36 Was in a rage
37 Prepare
39 Dry
40 Ready to eat
41 Diagnostic picture
42 Farm structure
44 Spoken
45 — a soul
48 Brillo competitor

ANSWER ON PAGE 6


1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55

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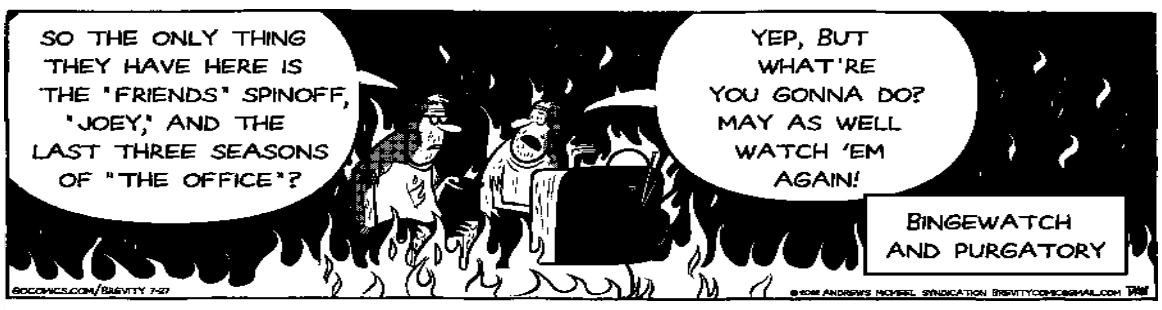
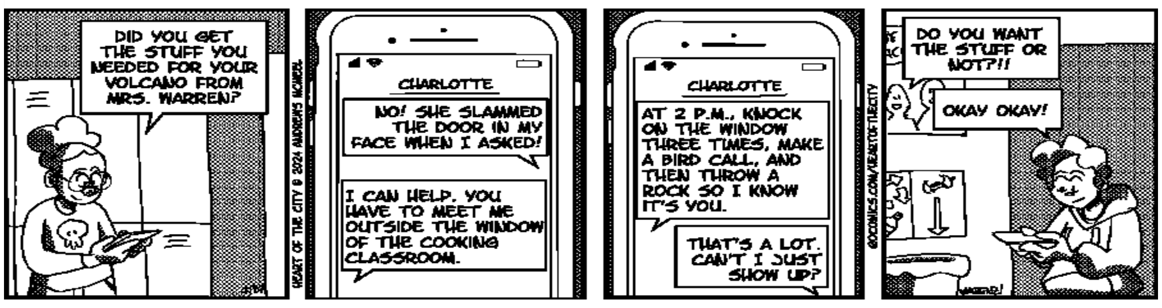
BREVITY


SO THE ONLY THING THEY HAVE HERE IS THE "FRIENDS" SPINOFF, "JOEY," AND THE LAST THREE SEASONS OF "THE OFFICE"?
YEP, BUT WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO? MAY AS WELL WATCH 'EM AGAIN!
BINGEWATCH AND PURGATORY
GOCOMICS.COM/BREVITY 7-27

HEART OF THE CITY


DID YOU GET THE STUFF YOU NEEDED FOR YOUR VOLCANO FROM MRS. WARREN?
CHARLOTTE
NO! SHE SLAMMED THE DOOR IN MY FACE WHEN I ASKED!
I CAN HELP. YOU HAVE TO MEET ME OUTSIDE THE WINDOW OF THE COOKING CLASSROOM.
CHARLOTTE
AT 2 P.M., KNOCK ON THE WINDOW THREE TIMES, MAKE A BIRD CALL, AND THEN THROW A ROCK SO I KNOW IT'S YOU.
THAT'S A LOT. CAN'T I JUST SHOW UP?
DO YOU WANT THE STUFF OR NOT?!!
OKAY OKAY!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2024 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

DEATH NOTICES

William Blanton, 79, passed away on Tuesday, July 23, 2024, in Niles, Michigan. Arrangements have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Lillian L. Owen, 85, of Union, died Wednesday, July 24, 2024. Arrangements are being made by Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, of Cassopolis.

Jeffery Paul Wetzel, 41, of Niles, died Monday, July 15, 2024. A celebration of life gathering will be held at 3 p.m., on Sunday, Aug. 11, 2024, at Riverfront Park, Niles, MI. Arrangements entrusted to Swem Chapel, Buchanan, 269-695-6881. www.swemchapel.com.

David Nelson McClelland Jr., 88, passed away on Sunday, July 21, 2024, in Mishawaka, Indiana. Arrangements have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Roger Tumbleson, 76, of Niles, passed away Thursday, July 22, 2024 surrounded by his family. Arrangements are pending with and have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

James Rothrock, 77, of Niles, passed away on Thursday, July 18, 2024. Arrangements are pending and have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles. www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com

Michael Opulskas, 67, of Benton Harbor, passed away Thursday, July 18, 2024. Arrangements have been entrusted to Allred Funeral Home in Berrien Springs. Services to be held on August 11. www.AllredFuneralHome.com

Charlene Gast, 78, of Niles, passed away Thursday, July 18, 2024. Arrangements are pending and have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, of Niles. www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com

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- Served as President of the Michigan Association of County Clerks
- Former State Representative for South Berrien County
- Served as Southwestern Michigan Economic Growth Alliance Director: Facilitated over $100 million in new investment for the Greater Niles Area
- Defending Election Integrity: Implemented secure early voting with two county-wide locations for in-person polls

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OBITUARIES

Robert Szamecki

Dec. 7, 1945-July 17, 2024

Robert Stanley Szamecki, known affectionately to his friends and family as Bob, passed away peacefully on July 17, 2024, at his sister's home in Niles. Born in South Bend on Dec.7, 1945, to the late Stanley Edward Szamecki and Lucille Jessee Syson, Bob was a devoted brother, uncle, and friend who brought light and warmth to every life he touched.

Robert enjoyed recreational boating, tinkering with anything mechanical, photography, the outdoors and developing relationships with genuine and sincere people. If you considered Bob a friend, count yourself in this category. Robert was a humorous and caring man that gave as much of himself to others as he possibly could. Robert was incredibly active until just a few short days before he passed. He made indelible marks on those closest to him with his unmatched wit and his willingness to assist friends and family. Robert leaves an unfillable void for those who knew him, which is testament to the space he occupied in our hearts and minds. He will live on in our lives as we are reminded of some of his quips while we're engaged in future conversations, while we're enjoying a particularly beautiful day on the water, when watching a magnificent sunset on a beach somewhere, or when we're in need of assistance and we wish we had our Bob to call for help...

Preceding Bob in passing are his parents, and sister, Marcie Campbell.

Robert is survived by his sisters, Marianne Abair and Marilyn Sue Lacy and numerous nieces and nephews.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Per Bob's wishes he will be cremated, and his family will be remembering him privately.

Photos, condolences, and memories may be left for Bob's family at www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com

Bob's legacy is one of authenticity and caring, and he will be profoundly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

James Franklin Grady Sr.

Dec. 3, 1953-July 12, 2024

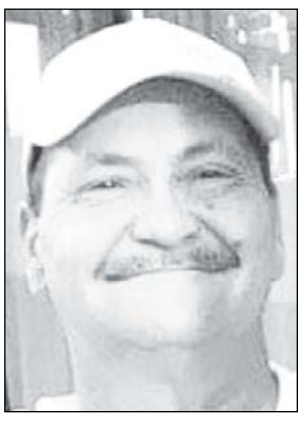
James Franklin Grady, Sr. of Detroit, Michigan departed his earthly life to begin his eternal life on Friday, July 12, 2024.

His life began on Dec. 3, 1953 in Three Rivers, Michigan, the son of Albert Grady, Jr. and Barbara Buck Wilson. James graduated from Dowagiac Union High School in 1972. James received an Associate Degree in Heating and Cooling. He was employed at Eastern Michigan University for 30 years where he retired.

James loved family get togethers where he was the jokester. He also loved spending time with his grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

James will be greatly missed by family and friends. He leaves to cherish his memories, his wife of 25 years, Rethia, 5 sons, James II (Jaquitta), Cedvic (Sarah), Garin (Jaleesa), Deon (Joan) and Darius, 1 daughter, Crystal, 6 sisters, Vicki (Earl), Cathy (Larry), Tracy, Michelle, Gale and Kay and 2 brothers, Danny and Matthew. James was preceded in death by his mother.

Family and friends will gather at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 3, 2024 until time of service at 3 p.m. at Pye Funeral Home, 17600 Plymouth, Detroit, Michigan.



Charles M. Lindley Sr.

June 9, 1962-July 16, 2024

Charles Michael "Chuck" Lindley, 62, of Cassopolis, died Tuesday, July 16, 2024.

His life began June 9, 1962, in Tucson, Arizona, fourth of five children born to Charles and Gladys Lindley. He married Tamara Lee Pattee Sept.18, 1999, in Cassopolis, Michigan.

Chuck cherished his family and enjoyed people. He had a distinct voice, and you would always know when he was around. He loved golfing, throwing horseshoes, having get-togethers with his family, playing cards, and watching basketball. He grew up attending The Lord's House Church in Cassopolis. Chuck started and grew C.L. Painting. He was passionate and proud of his business and the community that he loved.

Chuck will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his beloved wife of twenty-five years, Tammie Lindley of Cassopolis; daughter, Brooke (Amy Nelson) Lindley of Kalamazoo; son, Charles Michael "CJ" Lindley Jr. of Cassopolis; stepsons, Eric (Nichole) Keck of Cassopolis, Tadd (Katie) Caudill of Marcellus; three granddaughters, Emma, Ella, Bryanna; sisters, Debra (Keith) Barnum of Cassopolis, Lawara "Jean" (Tom) Casey of Dowagiac; brother, John Lindley of Cassopolis; half-brother, Ted Lindley of Elkhart, Indiana; and a host of nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; stepson, Trent Caudill; brother, Jeff Lindley; and nephew, JP Gartland III.

Family and friends will gather Saturday, July 20, 2024, from 12 noon until time of service at 2 p.m., in Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, 202 North Broadway Street, Cassopolis.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

Rex A. Beal

Feb. 9, 1957-July 22, 2024

Rex Alan Beal, 67, of Vandalia, died peacefully Monday July 22, 2024.

His life began Febr. 9,1957 in Muncie Indiana the only child born to Ruth Ann Beal.

Rex, aka Pops, lived life on his own terms. He had his own way and there was no changing it. He loved being out in the woods and with his dog Dutchess. Rex could often be found out at the BBQ fixing up about anything, including pizza, brats, pork chops, ribs and chicken. He was a jack of all trades. He learned to do about anything all on his own.

Rex will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by one daughter, Kristi Wares of Elkhart Indiana; two sons, Jerome (Marianne Behrends) Wares of Vandalia, Justin (Krystal Dunham) Wares; ten grandchildren and a host of nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by mother Ruth Ann Beal.

A Barbeque will be held in his honor at a later date.

Rex will be laid to rest in Bogue Street Memorial Garden.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com

CROSSWORD ANSWER

From Page 5

R	A	H	■	■	C	A	L	■	S	P	A	T
E	P	A	■	B	A	L	I	■	P	A	I	R
A	S	I	■	A	B	U	T	■	A	U	R	A
M	E	R	C	Y	■	M	E	D	D	L	E	D
■	■	D	O	E	■	■	R	O	E	■	■	■
■	G	R	A	D	■	V	A	T	■	F	A	T
W	A	Y	S	■	F	I	T	■	S	A	N	K
I	G	E	T	■	L	E	E	■	O	L	I	O
T	A	R	■	P	A	W	■	F	U	L	L	■
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A	R	S	E	N	I	C	■	M	A	C	O	N
R	I	C	A	■	N	O	S	E	■	I	R	A
I	P	A	D	■	G	O	O	D	■	E	A	R
D	E	N	Y	■	O	P	S	■	■	S	L	Y

SUDOKU ANSWER

From Page 5

6	9	7	3	2	1	5	4	8
1	2	5	4	6	8	9	7	3
3	4	8	5	7	9	6	2	1
2	6	3	7	4	5	8	1	9
7	8	9	6	1	2	4	3	5
5	1	4	8	9	3	7	6	2
8	7	2	1	5	6	3	9	4
9	3	6	2	8	4	1	5	7
4	5	1	9	3	7	2	8	6

Brandywine seeks operating millage renewal

STAFF REPORT

NILES CHARTER TOWNSHIP — On Tuesday, Aug. 6, Brandywine Community Schools will have a proposal on the ballot for a renewal of its Operating Millage. An Operating Millage is used to fund day to day operations in the district, including items such as salaries and transportation.

The renewal will be for eight years for 20.5916 mils but will not exceed 18 mils. An Operating Millage is levied on non-homestead and commercial properties, not primary homes or agricultural properties. This will not be a new tax. This millage provides $2.2 million in regular funding per year.

"Should the operating millage proposal not pass, it would decrease the district's state School Aid Foundation allowance by approximately $1,678 per student. This equates to over a 17 percent reduction in the School Aid Foundation allowance," said Superintendent Travis Walker.

Brandywine automotive program receives national accreditation

COMMUNITY REPORT

NILES CHARTER TOWNSHIP — The automotive training program at Brandywine Community Schools has received ASE Training Program accreditation by the ASE Education Foundation. Brandywine Middle/Senior High School's automotive program has been accredited in the following: strict industry standards.

"Our recent ASE training accreditation is a testament to Brandywine Community Schools' unwavering commitment to the trades and our dedication to supporting students and the region. This achievement not only reflects our high standards in vocational education but also ensures that our students are well-prepared for successful careers in the automotive industry. We are proud to contribute to the growth and development of our community by providing top-notch training and resources for the next generation of skilled professionals."

To achieve this coveted recognition, the school's automotive training program underwent rigorous evaluation by the ASE Education Foundation. Nationally accepted standards of excellence in areas such as instruction, facilities, and equipment were used.

"This is great news for automotive-minded young people and their parents," said Michael Coley, ASE Education Foundation President. "Because this program increases cooperation between local education and industry leaders, it gives added assurance that Brandywine's graduates will be employable entry-level technicians. As a result of the quality education provided by Brandywine, the motoring public will benefit since better repair technicians will join the work force."

The ASE Education Foundation is a non-profit, independent organization that evaluates and accredits entry-level technician training programs against standards developed by the automotive industry.

TABLE

Continued from page A1

to embrace the Main Street program and provide financial support so they can gain the accreditation. "We have been working diligently over the past two years to earn the accreditation," he wrote. "… If the city believes in this program and wants to be included, the city must invest further into this process."

Downtown business owner Alan Robandt wrote the most extensive comments. He questioned the legality of the city giving money to an outside organization as well as the membership of LiveBuchanan which he said has excluded many downtown property and business owners. He supported recreating the DDA as a city entity as it was before.

He wrote that LiveBuchanan's efforts in organizing Common concerts, Munchie Mondays and the new small business incubator as well as supporting marijuana businesses and promoting a mural of Buchanan native Hannah Roberts have not been effective.

"That is what we have after two plus years of this anti-DDA program," he wrote. "It's not an effective spending of Buchanan's tight resources."

Regal spoke before the vote, sometimes nearly breaking down as she spoke of the work she and others have done to establish LiveBuchanan and to make Buchanan a Michigan Main Street community. She noted that she had been tasked with making Buchanan a Main Street community when she was hired in October, 2021 and has worked to do that since then.

Projects undertaken so far include starting the small business incubator, stringing lights across Days Avenue, creating a large mural on the outside of the library and signage and billboards on U.S. 12.

She said Michigan Main Street officials from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation have set an August deadline for the city to pass the two measures tabled. She said Michigan Main Street provides training and other resources and requires a funding commitment from the local governing body. "This is a make or break moment," she said.

Regal did get approval of a new fall festival with everyone but Vigansky voting yes. Vigansky proposed doing it next fall in 2025 because of the shortness of time in planning it now. Regal said it will be Oct. 5 at the Common and feature a variety of activities with a number of organizations and entities participating.

Also Monday, commissioners approved a $52,900 contract with Abonmarche for design and engineering services related to the new handicapped accessible kayak launch at Riverfront Park. Community Development Director Rich Murphy said the city is getting $230,000 state grant and is matching it with $80,000 raised from non-government local sources.

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FRESH PICKED
SUPER SWEET SWEET CORN BY THE DOZ. OR BUSHEL
GREEN BEANS, HYDROPONIC TOMATOES, CUCUMBERS, ZUCCHINI, YELLOW SQUASH, GARLIC, OKRA, CABBAGE, BEETS. NEW POTATOES.
CANDY & WALLA WALLA SWEET ONIONS
BELL PEPPERS, SWEET & HOT PEPPERS, DILL
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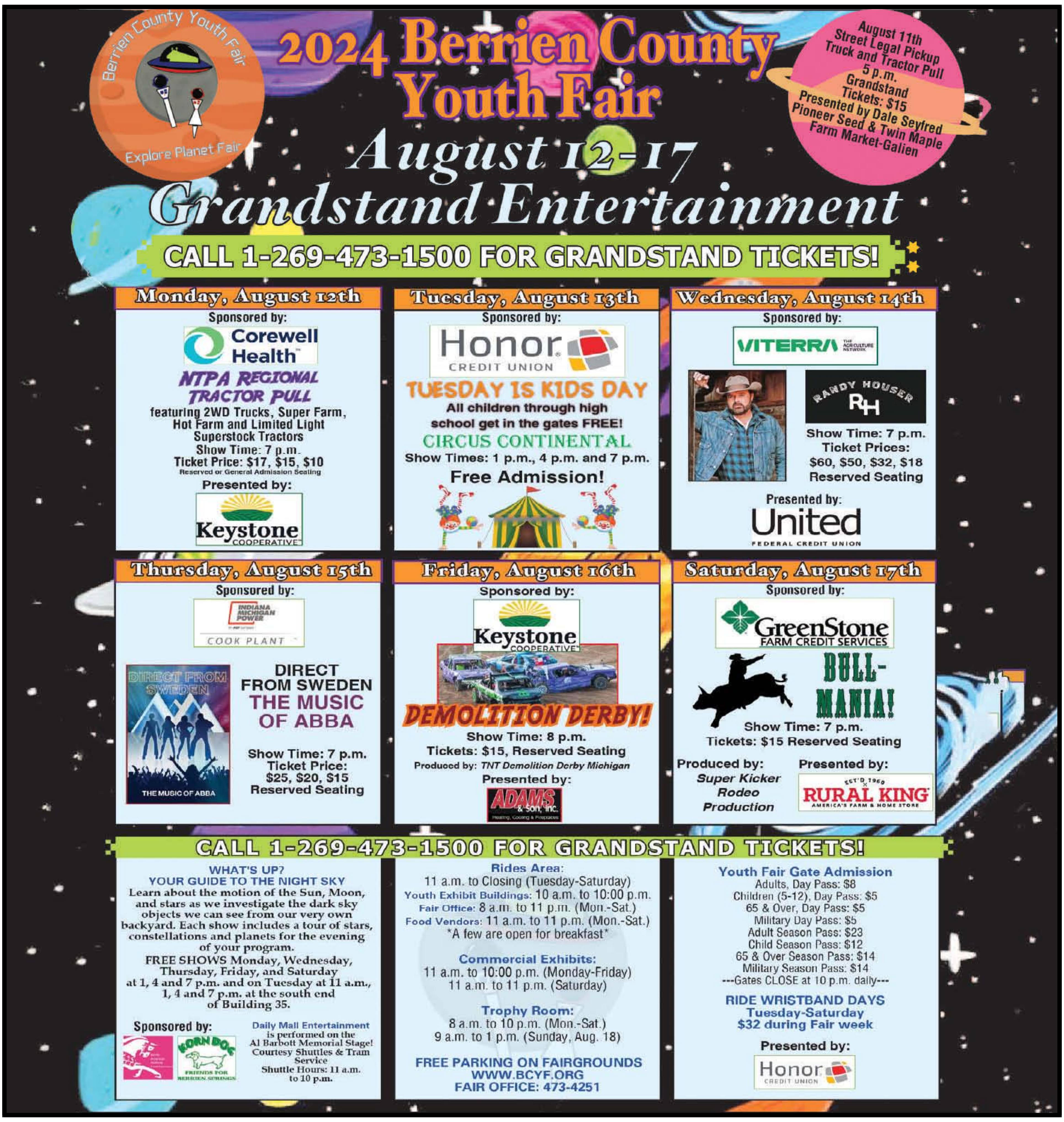
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Reserved Seating
Presented by: United Federal Credit Union

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Ticket Price: $25, $20, $15
Reserved Seating

Friday, August 16th
Sponsored by: Keystone Cooperative
DEMOLITION DERBY!
Show Time: 8 p.m.
Tickets: $15, Reserved Seating
Produced by: TNT Demolition Derby Michigan
Presented by: Adams & Son, Inc.

Saturday, August 17th
Sponsored by: GreenStone Farm Credit Services
BULL-MANIA!
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TEAS

Continued from page A1

of this loan with an additional $18,000 to facilitate kitchen and event space expansion to meet demand. Previous loan payments have been timely.

"We've added so many seats, we need to add bathrooms and that's just not a sexy application to a bank," she said. "We deeply appreciate the confidence the city is placing in us. We're pleased that they have noticed the impact that we've been striving to make in the community and that they are supporting it."

According to the city website, the city of Niles administers a revolving loan fund program that is available for loan and grant projects considered eligible by the state of Michigan. The RLF is an economic development tool that is based on partnerships between private businesses and the city that works by providing loans to businesses that cannot locate or expand in Niles with traditional financing sources alone.

The aim of the RLF is to generate economic activity that will lead to the creation of jobs for low-and moderate-income individuals. Loans may be used for land and building acquisition, construction, machinery and equipment acquisition, or for working capital. Businesses that benefit from the program are required to create one job for every $15,000 that is borrowed.

A majority of the jobs that are created must be provided to low- and moderate-income individuals.

This loan request does not impact the City's General Fund. The Revolving Loan Fund currently has $295,000 available for loans.

Councilmember Michael Thompson cast the lone dissenting vote.

"The problem I have with this program as a whole is that it's not the role of the government," he said. "It's not defending liberty, it's not defending freedom. Because of that, I can't vote for this and with any luck at all, we will eventually get rid of this whole program because we're not a bank."

Since opening in 2019, Apothica Teas has become a destination for more than tea, with unique events and an inclusive atmosphere. The business has already expanded multiple times to meet demand, including the opening of an additional dining space to accommodate their increasing customer traffic and the opening of the The Great Hall and The Atelier upstairs event spaces.

The tea shop's mission, with its apothecary-style design and Victorian Steampunk decor, is to create an experience, whether customers are there for an event or simply enjoying drinks and snacks on any given day.

Hollister expressed the impact RLF programs have on small businesses in positions where they are unable to borrow funding from a typical financial institution.

"One of the council members did indicate the city shouldn't be a bank but I think we have to remember that banks are not interested in our downtowns. They are interested in what the bottom line means for them and they're not going to take a risk where the downtown can take an educated risk because they do know us through our business," she said. "They know what their downtown needs. Even if you were strangers coming in with a good plan, if you can't get the funding as a young business, it is really really hard. Even though we've been here since 2019, we have been operational for about three and a half years and we've expanded four times since then.

"It's hard to say a year-over-year number and demonstrate the kind of growth that the bank wants to see to finance you but when you have a revolving loan like this that gives us opportunities that the banks won't… They're essentially just letting us re-borrow what we have paid back, so there really isn't a significant risk anymore to the city and those are the types of things that revolving loan is for. I'm grateful for the program and for the confidence that the city council is placing in us."

WATCH

Continued from page A1

Let's do it again and cheer Hannah on for another successful Olympic competition, this time in Paris.

"Hannah continues to be an inspiration for all of Buchanan and across the world as she proves once again that you can go from the small town all the way to the world stage," Denison added. "NBC Sports covered the Tokyo 2021 Watch Party and is aware of the Paris 2024 Watch Party and hopefully our small town can once again be seen by the eyes of the entire world."

PIC

Continued from page A1

Pratt Industries Intermodal Chassis, a father and son business in Chicago, Illinois. In December 2021, the North American Chassis Pool Cooperative acquired Pratt Industries Intermodal Chassis, which is now Pratt Intermodal Chassis LLC, or PIC. The company currently has a worldwide reputation for high-quality equipment and its chassis can be found in every major fleet in the United States.

PIC has continued to thrive and expand in Niles. Over the past two years, PIC has doubled its workforce, increased daily production rates, and modernized its factory with significant investments in automation and technology. Additionally, PIC has partnered with MMTC to provide world-class training for its employees, ensuring our team remains at the cutting edge of the industry.

"We really felt that we needed to distinguish who we were from the older brand," Van Itallie said. "We've spent the last two years and several million dollars redoing a lot of what's inside this facility bringing in new high-tech equipment, training and hiring friendly welders, assemblers and painters and trying to become the producer of superior intermodal chassis both locally and one of the top producers in the United States. We're really proud to be here in Niles and part of the Niles and South Bend movements."

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Niles Daily Star
Sports

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Chettleburgh, Bolt win Diamond Lake Triathlon titles

KELLY SWEENEY | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Swimmers hit the water at 7:30 a.m. as the first wave of the 2024 Diamond Lake Triathlon participants got things under way last Saturday.

By SCOTT NOVAK
scott.novak@leaderpub.com

CASSOPOLIS — Perfect conditions greeted a sold edout field for the 2024 Diamond Lake Triathlon last Saturday.

Under sunny skies and mild temperatures when the first wave hit the water in front of Diamond Lake Triathlon, Michael Chettleburgh captured the men's title with an overall time of 59:24.

Lori Bolt took home the women's championship with a time of 1:05.20.

"The 2024 the Diamond Lake triathlon was completely sold out as 175 participants enjoyed water temperatures of 78-degree air temperatures on a beautiful sunny day," said Race Director Joe Fazzini. "Our winners came from multiple locations, including Tri Locos of Indianapolis and Tree threats of Granger Indiana. Additionally, 18 relay teams, which was a record, toed the line. Our youngest competitor was eight years old and our oldest 81."

A total of 10 different states were represented in the field. An additional 65 volunteers helped make the Diamond Lake Triathlon a success.

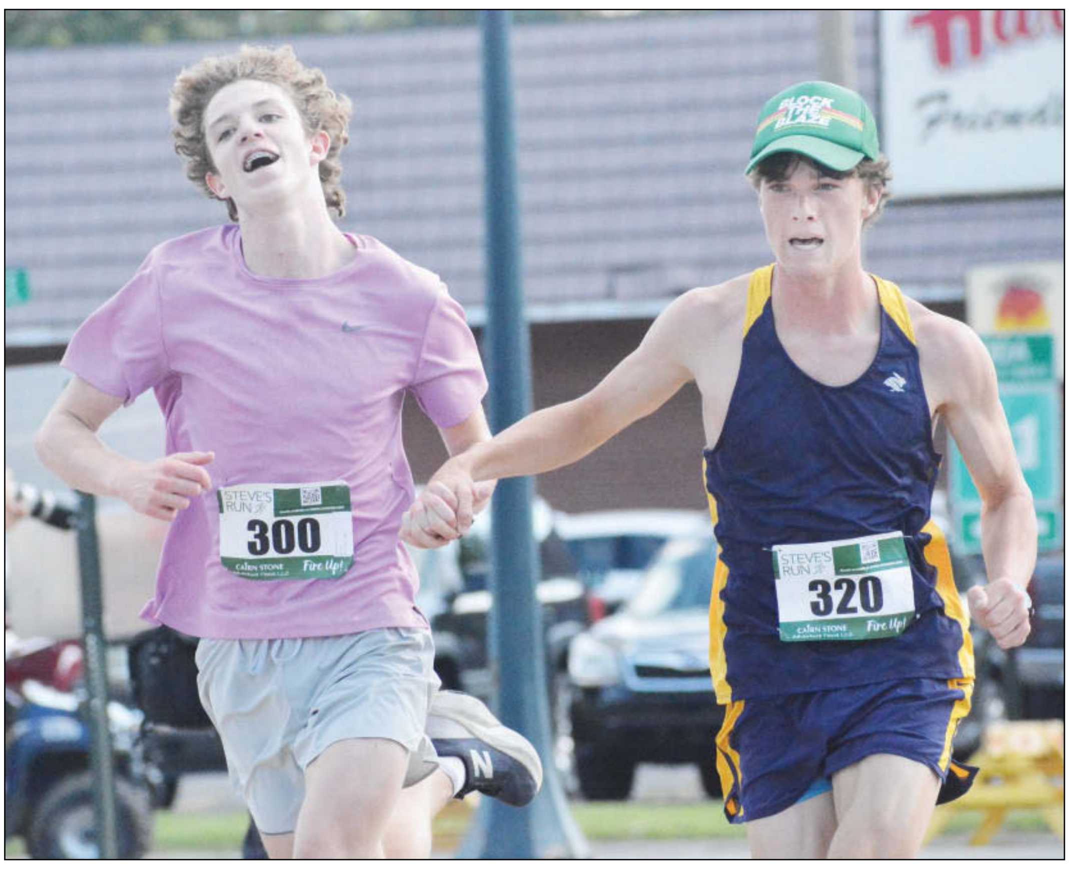
"Like to thank all our sponsors, volunteers, participants, and the entire Diamond Lake community and the village of Cassopolis for supporting us," Fazzini said.

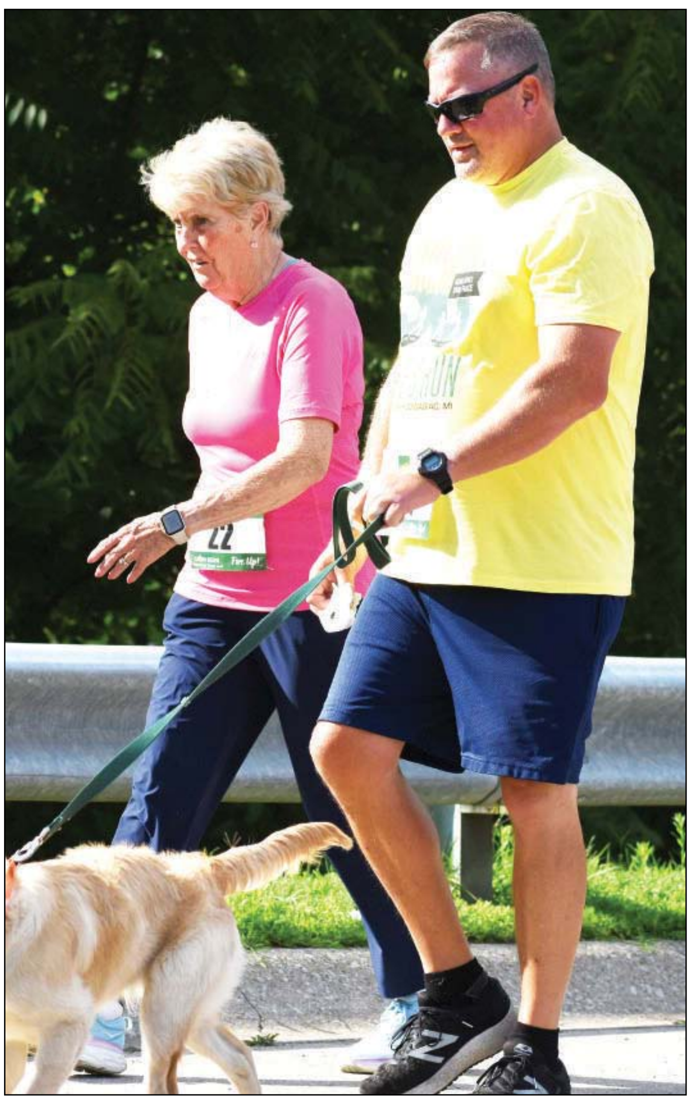
Chettleburgh completed the 500-yard swim in a time of 8:05, the 12-mile bike ride in 29:37 and the 3.3-mile run in 20:29.

See TRIATHLON, page B2

SCOTT NOVAK and MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Buchanan's Liam McBeth and Ashton Smedley (right) cross the finish line together at the 50th annual Steve's Run. Agnes Hasler, of South Bend, was the women's 5K winner.





Buchanan duo finishes first, second at Steve's Run

50th annual road race draws large crowd

By MAXWELL HARDEN and SCOTT NOVAK
scott.novak@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — A pair of Buchanan juniors-to-be finished first and second at the 50th annual Steve's Run in downtown Dowagiac last Friday night.

Ashton Smedley and Liam McBeth crossed the finish line hand-in-hand, with Smedley taking first place in the 5K with a time of 18:35 and McBeth the runner-up with a clocking of 18:36.

Carlos Cruz placed third (18:47) and David Jones fourth (19:11).

Another Buchanan runner, Jacob Kuntz was fifth with a time of 19:28.

Agnes Hasler, a South Bend Adams sophomore, was the women's overall winner with a time of 22:41.

Konnor Ray won the men's 10K with a clocking of 36:48. Emily Shepherd was the women's winning with a time of 48:19.

Smedley will be competing for the Bucks for the first time this fall after moving from California. The Smedley name is family to not only Buchanan fans, but southwest Michigan as well. Michael Smedley, who finished ninth overall, and Megan Smedley dominated cross country and in track and field for the Bucks.

"We were communicating throughout the whole race," Ashton Smedley said. "At the end, we decided to hold hands to get a great picture through the finish. It feels good to have a great community out here."

"It was hot. The hills in the back were tough, but we did well," McBeth said. "I just went out and ran, and we ended up being in the front, and we said, 'all right, let's finish this.'"

Hasler enjoyed the Steve's Run experience.

"It was wonderful," she said. "It was a great course. It was up and down and hilly, but I got through it. I honestly didn't know it was going to happen. I was at mile two and this guy goes 'you're the first girl right now, way to go' and now here we are. It was a great honor."

Nearly 300 runners participated in Steve's Run, which benefits cancer research and scholarships.

Southwestern Michigan College President Joe Odenwald, who in his seventh year, continues to be impressed with the support the event received, not only in Dowagiac, but throughout southwest Michigan and northern Indiana.

"We're very grateful," he said. "You think about something that's been going on for 50 years, it's amazing. There's a lot of families that come back every year that do this and that's really an amazing story. I've been here seven years and to see people come back — it's kind of a reunion every year. I think it's neat to see several of the Dowagiac Union High School classes pairing their

See STEVE'S RUN, page B2

COLLEGE ATHLETICS

SMC teams, athletes earn all-academic honors

COMMUNITY NEWS

DOWAGIAC — The NJCAA announced their 2023-2024 All-Academic Teams today, and the SMC Roadrunners are well-represented.

Nineteen student-athletes were named to the three teams for their performance in the classroom. To qualify as First Team, students must earn a 4.00 GPA, Second Team is 3.80-3.99 GPA and Third Team is 3.60-3.79 GPA.

NJCAA All-Academic First Team: Abi Marquis (Volleyball), Taylor Miller (Volleyball) and Tori Yates (Women's CC).

NJCAA All-Academic Second Team: Emma Beckman (Volleyball), Sophia Deeds (Volleyball), Anna Johnson (Volleyball), Micah Ordway (Men's CC), Morgan Piezcynski (Women's CC), Carlie Ritchie (Volleyball), Juliette Schroeder (Volleyball), Riley Sinkler (Women's CC) and Kierstyn Thompson (Women's CC).

NJCAA All-Academic Third Team: Charlee Balcom (Women's BB), Emilee Demski (Volleyball), Amanda Jones (Volleyball), Macey Laubach (Women's BB), Taylor Meier (Women's CC), John Sanderson (Men's CC) and Cameron Thomas (Women's BB).

SMC ATHLETICS
2023-2024
NJCAA ALL-ACADEMIC TEAMS
NJCAA

KELLY SWEENEY | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Michael Chettleburgh (above) won the men's title at the Diamond Lake Triathlon. At right, a runner in the sprint relay heads out on the 3.3 mile run.

TRIATHLON

Continued from page B1

Stace Tucker was second with a time of 1:01.10, while Kelly Ball was third with a clock of 1:03.03.

Rounding out the top five were Zachary Root (1:04.01) and Gavin Ferlic (1:04.5)

Bolt completed the swim with a time of 8:15, the bike ride in 32:15 and the run in 22:44.

Ashley McCuen was second with an overall time of 1:10.07, while Ellen Longcor was third with a clocking of 1:18.17.

Jamie Govert placed fourth (1:19.13) and Stephanie Gardner fifth (1:19.54).

Team Surf Internet won the relay with a time of 1:11.31. Team 3 Boys 1 Cup was second (1:17.29) and Team Waz2024 was third (1:17.34).

New in 2024 was the 500-yard swim.

Elizabeth McKinley was the inaugural winner with a time of11:45. Kristine Simons was second with a 13:14 and Donna Coffey third with a 14:45.

STEVE'S RUN

Continued from page B1

reunions with it — I think it's special."

Odenwald thanked everyone involved with putting on the race.

"I think it's a great thing and we hope to see it live on and support such great causes like cancer research and the Steven Briegel Scholarship," he said. "I can't say enough about our sponsors and the Chamber of Commerce and all of their help for making this happen."

DAILY DATA

RUNNING
Steve's Run 5K
At Dowagiac
Male Overall
Ashton Smedley 18:35

Female Overall
Agnes Hasler 22:41

Top 10
Ashton Smedley 18:35
Liam McBeth 18:36
Carlos Cruz 18:47
David Jones 19:11
Jacob Kuntz 19:28
Matthew Morrow 20:02
Nate Hannah 20:05
Cole Danaher 20:06
Michael Smedley 20:20
Justin Mangus 20:33

Age Division Winners
14 and Under
I. Lorenz 26:44
15-19
Amelia Hurst 24:25
20-29
Allison Lauri 25:05
30-39
Sarah Lorenz 26:41
40-49
Tia Lillie 26:59
50-59
Nancy Leonard 29:25
60-69
Stacy Grimm 40:06
70 and Over
Mona Lee Hostetter 40:09

Male Age Division Winners
14 and Under
Elias Baldwin 21:37
15-19
Liam McBeth 18:36
20-29
David Jones 19:11
30-39
Abraham Richey 24:09
40-49
Matthew Morrow 20:02
50-59
Ashton Smedley 18:36
60-69
Clarence Grimm 26:09
70 and Over
Jerry Fergason 36:02

Steve's Run 10K
Overall Male
Konnor Ray 36:48

Overall Female
Emily Shepherd 48:19

Top 10
Konnor Ray 36:48
Jackson Sanford 37:44
Jacob Timmons 38:48
Joshua Bosstel 38:56
Adam Dohm 41:01
Braden Bachmann 41:56
Max Howk 42:34
John Arndt 44:08
Eli Shane 44:19
Rhys Sebasty 44:27

Female Age Division Winners
14 and Under
E. Bussler 1:41:30
15-19
Adyson Baker 53:17
30-39
Sara Fritz 1:06:24
40-49
Feona Arndt 1:05:55
50-59
Stephanie Lear 1:06:09
60-69
Sandy Ryan 1:02.36

Male Age Division Winners
14 and Under
Eli Shane 44:19
15-19
Jackson Sanford 37:44
20-29
Jacob Timmons 38:48
30-29
Matthew Byers 48:29
40-49
Adam Dohm 41:01
50-59
John Arndt 44:08
60-69
Stephen Breen 57:58
70 and Over
Steve LaCluyse 1:00.22

Diamond Lake Triathlon
At Cassopolis
Sprint Triathlon
Male Top 10
Michael Chettleburgh 59:24
Stacy Tucker 1:01.10
Kelly Ball 1:03.03
Zachary Root 1:04.01
Gavin Ferlic 1:04.5
Samuel Felton 1:04.09
Matthew Hauck 1:06.40
Patrick O'Brien 1:07.51
Daniel Powers 1:08.55

Female Top 10
Lori Bolt 1:05.20
Ashley McCuen 1:10.07
Ellen Longcor 1:18.17
Jamie Govert 1:19.13
Stephanie Gardner 1:19.54
Antonia Hiland 1:19.58
Mary Mulcrone 1:20.10
Maggie Cressy 1:21.08
Abigail Dutcher 1:21.12
Jenny Kaminski 1:22.33

Male Age Group Winners
1-19
Isaac Elledge 1:21.39
20-24
Quinn Kennedy 1:25.17
25-29
Patrick O'Brien 1:07.51
30-34
Samuel Felton 1:04.09
35-39
Zachary Root 1:04.01
40-44
Gavin Ferlic 1:04.05
45-49
Matthew Hauck 1:06.40
50-54
Danny Balos 1:09.39
55-59
Michael Warner 1:11.23
60-64
Todd Rothi 1:32.09
65-69
Jeff Garr 1:14.55
70-74
Daniel Govert 1:29.57
70 and Over
Ken Yoder 1:41.20
Clydesdale
Doug Stpeters 1:35.28

Female Age Group Winners
1-19
Brynn Cupp 1:19.26
20-24
Antonia Hiland 1:19.58
30-34
Maddie Toth 1:17.49
35-39
Ellen Longcor 1:18.17
40-44
Stephanie Gardner 1:19.54
45-49
Jamie Govert 1:19.13
50-54
Tori Nguyen 1:34.43
55-59
Jenny Kaminski 1:22,33
60-64
Tamara Shuler 1:16.47
65-69
Mary Mulcrone 1:20.10
70-74
Joanne Miller 1:51.21

Sprint Swim
Elizabeth McKinley 11:45
Kristine Simons 13:14
Donna Coffey 14:45

Village to consider rental fees for Gunn Park shelter

By JUSTIN FLAGEL
Leader Publications Contributor

EDWARDSBURG — The Village Council of Edwardsburg met Monday at the Village Hall for their regular monthly meeting.

The council continued discussion regarding possible rental fees for use of the new shelter at Gunn Park after bringing back additional research. Trustee Hughes put forth the idea of offering rentals for full or half days, with the possibility of charging $100 and $50 respectively, with village residents only paying $75 and $40. The council also discussed requiring a $100 cash security deposit for renters, a signed waiver, and limiting rentals to those 21 years or older. They also discussed expectations for renters, such as clean up after use and the person renting being required to be at the event. No decisions were made at the meeting.

Library Director Barbara Gordon spoke at the meeting to discuss the ongoing construction of the Edwardsburg Branch of the Cass District Library. She announced that the library would be launching a donation program intended to raise $500,000 to go toward the new building's expenses, including construction, landscaping, and furniture. The library is partnering with the Michigan Gateway Community Foundation for the effort. She also noted that the construction is currently running about six weeks behind due to recent weather.

The long-delayed iron filtration plant is likely to go online in the month, with state inspections complete and final retesting in the works. The plant will help to remedy rust-colored water for residents, though it was noted that iron may still be seen for 4-6 months once the plant is fully implemented as the system is cleaned out. Village staff will complete multiple flushes this year to help expedite the process.

The council approved several expenses, including requesting that Cass County painting crews repaint center and fog lines on Section Street at a cost of no more than $1000. Also approved was $495 for a new tire and tie rod for a dump truck, $230 for the repair of a trimmer, $1500 for the removal of a fallen tree on Jefferson Street, $400 for paint supplies for relining roads, and $932 for the temporary use of a communication device used as a stopgap while new antennas were installed.

Village staff are still reviewing options regarding the use of temporary speed bumps on Washington Boulevard after receiving feedback from residents. No additional speed bumps are likely to be installed and the existing one will come out in the fall as planned, with the village still working on a long term plan to satisfy concerns of residents while creating a safer roadway.

The Village's Annual Audit was announced for the first week in August. The council's next regular meeting will take place on Monday, August 19th at 7pm. It was also announced that another tournament would be taking place at the Edwardsburg Sports Complex this weekend, which may lead to slower traffic.

BBQ

Continued from page A2

slightly and today I decided to do what I usually do on chicken and then just wing it on ribs."

McKee said he has participated in 10 BBQ competitions and feels he has improved with every contest.

"I've come a long way," he said. "Last year I didn't even get a single call. This is the first year I've gotten a call and now I've got a call in every single contest I've been to."

Michael and Carol Eckes, of Heartland, Wisconsin placed six overall as Wapatui Smokers, placing second overall in chicken and 13th in ribs. The couple began barbecuing two years ago and started competing last year.

"After a year, it was like 'I wonder how good my ribs are compared to other people," Michael said. "I started messing around on the patio and started competing and then we started learning things and getting good and just doing it on the weekends. It's a good time, lots of nice, friendly, people and you learn a lot."

For Michael and other competitors, friendships are one of the highlights of contests.

"It's like one big family," Michael said. "They want to help you and they want you to be better. We were so new a year ago, we didn't know anything and they'll tell you exactly what they do and to try new things to improve your skills."

"It's a really nice community, it's like a Brotherhood," Larson said. "Everyone is nice and very friendly. Everyone helps each other."

McKee and several other groups came away impressed with Dowagiac's festival and look to return in the future.

"I've been to contests where they won't even bring out an ash bucket, no grease bucket or garbage, so they do a really good job here," McKee said. "You can tell they have people that have been around barbecue before organizing it."

"It's such a charming downtown," Larson said. "I love the old buildings, so many towns tear them down. It's very cute, has a very good setup and is nicely organized."

Complete results from the competition:
Overall

1. Weez's Groovin' BBQ
2. Skinny Pig BBQ
3. Hess Hogs
4. Too Sauced Guys Bar-B-Que
5. Hoosier BBQ
6. Wapatui Smokers
7. Overcurrent BBQ
8 BBQ Mike
9. Collins Custom BBQ
10. Porkasaurus Rex BBQ

Chicken

1. Too Sauced Guys Bar-B-Que
2. Wapatui Smokers
3. Hoosier BBQ
4. Weez's Groovin' BBQ
5. Porkasaurus Rex BBQ
6. Hess Hogs
7. Overcurrent BBQ
8. BBQ MIKE
9. Diddy's Delectable 3BQ
10. Collins Custom BBQ

Ribs

1. Skinny Pig BBQ
2. Weez's Groovin' BBQ
3. Buckeye Blue Smoke BBQ
4. Hess Hogs
5. Hoosier BBQ
6. Too Sauced Guys Bar-B-Que
7. Smoky J's BBQ
8. Collins Custom BBQ
9. BBQ Mike
10. Overcurrent BBQ

OPENS

Continued from page A3

add sandwiches. They are starting intentionally with a small menu, creating flexibility to adjust to give the community what it wants.

Ted, who studied sustainability in school, will utilize local fruits and other ingredients in the beer and food.

According to Kortney, the community's support and anticipation has been much appreciated.

"It's been wonderful," she said. "Ted's coming back home, I'm living here for the first time so that was kind of nerve-wracking but it's been great."

The Romanetzes plan to host events in the space and will offer doggy space for canine companions next summer.

"That will be nice for people," she said. "We'll have yard games and everything. We're growing grass for that next year."

The couple looks forward to serving the Cassopolis community for years to come.

"We hope to bring a warm space to hang out with your friends and try a drink or a yummy pizza and nice events," she said. "We have a great patio – not a lot of places out here have good patios, you're always looking for them. We really want a nice space for anyone and everyone to gather, and children are welcome because it's Michigan."

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NOTICE - PUBLIC LAND AUCTION

The Cass County Treasurer will offer tax-reverted real estate at public auction on September 3rd, 2024.

The auction will be held online at **www.tax-sale.info** from 10:00am to 7:00pm EDT. Bids can also be placed up to 30 days in advance on the website, and assistance is available for those without computer or internet access.

Incomplete or voided sales from the September 3rd auction, if any, will be re-offered online on September 26th, 2024. Please visit **www.tax-sale.info/faq** for additional details.

For more information and a list of the properties being sold, visit **www.tax-sale.info** or call 1-800-259-7470. Sale listings *may* also be available at the county treasurer's office.

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Cemetery Memorial Stones
21945 M60 East, Cassopolis, MI 49031
Phone: 269.445.3848 Fax: 269.445.3828
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monumentsbydesign@gmail.com

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301 W Front St, Buchanan
269-471-2700
starksfamilyfh.com
Starks
Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services

ROSEMARY J. SPRAGUE ESTATE
ESTATE AUCTION
MONDAY AUGUST 5 @ 10:00 A.M.
Located at 33085 Middle Crossing Rd. - Dowagiac, MI
North of M-62 on Indian Lake Rd. to Middle Crossing Rd.
ROUND OAK STOVE: No. 18 (P.D. Beckwith) Round Oak Stove! **HOUSEHOLD ITEMS * COLLECTOR ITEMS**: Tear-Drop Pull Secretary; Antique Dresser; Doll Buggy; Antique Sofa; Snow Shoes; Banjo Clock; Quilt; Glassware; Antiques & Collectibles; Hump Back Trunk; Antique Beds; Crocks & Jugs. **GARAGE ITEMS:** Craftsman 12" Band Saw; Large Belt Driven Drill Press; Floor Model Drill Press; Old Cutter Sleigh; Old Tools. Lots Misc. **REAL ESTATE:** 4 Bedroom 1-1/2 Bath Victorian Style Home, Large Farm Barn, **All on 2 Acres!** Country Estate located between Indian Lake and Sisters Lakes. Detached Garage, Shop Area. **Offered at 11-AM. Terms at open house.**
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Employment

Job Opportunities

Bookkeeper
Please submit your resume to Oronoko Charter Township Clerk. PO Box 214, Berrien Springs, MI 49103; clerk@oronokotownship.org.

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Wanted: Bookkeeper

Part-time, 12 to 16 hours per week, bookkeeping position. Areas of responsibility include fund accounting, accounts payable, accounts receivable, cost center reconciliation, cash balance bank reconciliation, payroll and tax withholding, budget analysis and preparation, account revenue and expenditure balancing. Qualifications should include at least two years of related work experience. Computer Programs used are: BS&A, Word, Excel. Excellent PC skills and experience in accounting software systems is necessary.
Good people skills are essential.
Oronoko Charter Township is an equal opportunity employer.
Please submit your resume to

Oronoko Charter Township Clerk.
PO Box 214, Berrien Springs, MI 49103;
clerk@oronokotownship.org.
Deadline is July 26, 2024.

JOB OPENING

DPS Operations Superintendent

The City of Dowagiac is accepting applications for the Department of Public Services Operations Superintendent. This position supervises, directs, and coordinates all work activities associated with all Parks/Grounds Streets, Cemetery, and Water/Sewer services; provides reports, recommendations, and support regarding crew activities and the City's infrastructure; and works with the Director of Public Services to manage various projects and activities, including monitoring labor, equipment, and material budgets.

Major duties include organizing, managing, scheduling and implementing maintenance, repair, construction, and operations activities related to city streets; solid waste collection (leaves, brush, lawn debris); city buildings and facilities; water distribution infrastructure; sanitary sewer collection infrastructure; storm sewer and drainage infrastructure; city parks, grounds, and lands; cemetery operations and maintenance; and various other assigned projects and activities related to the city's property, facilities, and infrastructure. Duties also include professional, courteous, and responsive interaction and communication with employees and the public.

Must possess a Bachelor degree or equivalent experience in a field related to public services. Must have knowledge of and experience with construction methods, materials and equipment related to public service activities. Certifications in Water and Sewer Operations preferred. high school diploma (or equivalent). Must have a valid Driver's License, Commercial Driver's License (Class B) preferred.

Salaried position, $60,444-$78,578 DOQ.

Applications will be accepted until August 16, 2024. Candidates are encouraged to apply online at www.cityofdowagiac.com (all online applications must include a cover letter and resume) or they may choose to email their cover letter and resume directly to Amanda Sleigh, Assistant City Manager/HR Director, at acm@dowagiac.org.

The City of Dowagiac is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, gender, age, national origin or disability in employment or the provision of services.

Job Opportunities

EARN EXTRA CASH!

Leader Publications the publishers of the weekly Leader newspaper is seeking
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- Assistant Store Manager

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To Set Up An Appointment!

Job Opportunities

DPS Operations Superintendent

Applications will be accepted until August 16, 2024. Candidates are encouraged to apply online at www.cityofdowagiac.com (all online applications must include a cover letter and resume) or they may choose to email their cover letter and resume directly to Amanda Sleigh, Assistant City Manager/HR Director, at acm@dowagiac.org

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More Information Call 269-222-1568
or email a resume to: info@2cconstruction.com

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Miscellaneous For Sale

For sale, a refurbished mid-2019 Apple Macbook Pro with .4 GHz Intel Core i5 (13.3 inch, 8GB RAM, 256GB SSD) Space Gray (Renewed)
Brand Apple
Model Name MV962LL/A
Screen Size 13.3 Inches
Color Space Gray
Hard Disk Size 256 GB
CPU Model Core i5
Ram Memory Installed Size 8 GB
Operating System Mac OS
Special Feature IPS Retina Display, True Tone Technology, Touch Bar | Touch ID Sensor
Graphics Card Description Integrated
Asking $500. It is still in the box.

Also for sale, a RIF6 adjustable height standing desk converter — 32-inch wide laptop riser or dual monitor workstation. Easily sit or stand with gas spring lift. Still in the box. Asking $75. Will sell in combo with the computer or separately.

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Public Farm Equipment Online Auction, Aug. 14, 8 a.m. Tractors, trailers, farm equipment, snow mobile, wood splitter, welder, sand blaster cabinet, generator, more! CrydermanAuctions.com to view catalog, other auctions. Call 586-784-8890.

Murphy Online Auction bidding open. Cub Cadet riding mower, EZ-Go golf cart, trailer, lawn equipment, tools, crossbow, camping, more! Bid Anywhere, anytime @JohnPeckAuctions.com. Call John Peck 989-426-8061. Offices Gladwin & Charlotte.

Frost Estate Online Auction through Aug. 5. John Deere JD 300 backhoe/loader, Massey Ferguson 180 diesel tractor, boom sprayer, farm implements, chain fall log splinter, antiques, more. Visit Bid.SherwoodAuctionServiceLLC.com. Call 1-800-835-0495.

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Public Notices

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF NILES NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ANNUAL ACTION PLAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

The City of Niles is hosting a Public Hearing to obtain the views of citizens concerning the 2nd Substantial Amendment to The City of Niles Community Development Block Grant Program Year 2023 Annual Action Plan, on Monday, 8/12/24 at 6:00pm at the City of Niles Fire Department and Council Chambers, 1345 E Main Street, Niles, MI.

The City of Niles received 261,016 in CDBG funds, is carrying forward an additional $477,530 in prior year resources for a total of $1,100,000 in CDBG funds for program year 2023 (October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024) for the purposes of undertaking a variety of projects meeting one of the three national objectives – 1) benefit low- and moderate-income persons, 2) aid in the prevention or elimination of slums and blight, or 3) meet other community development needs having a particular urgency. Adjustments to the Plan include the elimination of all approved Ferry Street Resource Center Projects & activities at FSRC's request and adjustments to the following Activity allocation totals:
Code Enforcement-$100,000
Demolition/Clearance- $60,000
Playground Installation at former Tot Park site/ Pokagon St- $30,000
3rd St Owner Occupied Assistance- $50,000
Homeowner Assistance- $50,000
620 Ferry Park Installation- $100,000
Summer My Way- $10,000
Summer Camp Scholarships- $1,000
We Echo- $2,500
School Resource Officer/Crime Prevention- $15,000
Administration-$52,000
An electronic version of the 2023 DRAFT Annual Action Plan with Substantial Amendments may be viewed on the City's website at https://www.nilesmi.org/departments_and_divisions/community_development_department.php.
PLEASE BE NOTIFIED that you are invited to provide input by contacting the CDBG Coordinator as outlined below or attending the hearing and to present your opinions or position concerning the subject of this hearing. If you are unable to attend the hearing, you may send a letter stating your opinions or position to the City of Niles (Attn. CDBG Coordinator), 333 N. 2nd Street, Niles, MI 49120, or email CDBGCoordinator@nilesmi.org.
The City of Niles will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to those individuals with impairments who wish to attend its public meetings upon receiving at least one week's notice. Any such individual requiring such aids or services should contact the City by writing to City of Niles ADA Coordinator, 333 N 2nd Street, Niles, MI, 49120, or calling 269.683.4700 or 269.683.1313 to access the TDD (Telecommunication Device for the Deaf) for individuals with hearing or speech impairment.
Dated: July 27, 2024

Sanya Vitale
CDBG Coordinator

Niles Daily Star:
July 27, 2024
HEARING

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR SALE Accepting BIDS for:
One (1) 2007 Black Grand Caravan * One (1) 2011 Gray Grand Caravan *
*** One (1) 2006 Bluebird Bus * One (1) 2013 Bluebird Wheelchair Bus ***
Send and/or deliver "Sealed Bid to:
Mr. Kim Vaughn, Sr.
Heritage Southwest ISD
61682 Dailey Road
Cassopolis, MI 49031
NEED ALL BIDS by Friday, August 9, 2024 - 4 p.m. (MI Time)
Vehicles can be seen from 7:30 a 3:30 p Monday-Friday at the address above

Mark envelope "Sealed Bid" and **mail or deliver** to the person named above Any questions, call 269 445-6255

The Board of Education reserves the right to Accept or Reject any or all BIDS and are not bound to Accept low BIDS. Cash, Cashiers Check or Money Order "must" be received upon pick up of vehicle

Niles Daily Star:
Jul. 27 and Aug. 3, 2024
BIDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF BERRIEN NOTICE TO CREDITORS DECEDENT'S ESTATE CASE NO. 2024-0583-DE AND JUDGE HON. GORDON G. HOSBEIN

Court address: 811 PORT STREET ST. JOSEPH MI 49085
Estate of Michael T. Kennedy Date of birth 08/04/1961
TO ALL CREDITORS:**
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Michael T. Kennedy, died 07-03-21. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to John F. Kennedy, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 811 Port St. St. Joseph MI 49085 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Niles Daily Star:
July 27, 2024
EST/KENNEDY, M.

Do you have available jobs?
Call 269-591-6105 to let others know about job opportunities at your business.

PUBLIC NOTICE

HOWARD TOWNSHIP CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN BOARD OF TRUSTEES JULY 16, 2024

Supervisor Kasprzak called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Business Office, 1345 Barron Lake Road, Niles. The Pledge to the Flag was recited. Board members present: Daly, Gordon, Kasprzak, Hurlbutt and Johnson, were present. Wozniak and Conover were absent.

Board Action
Approved Meeting Agenda.
Approved the minutes of the 6/18/24 Board meeting
Approved the financial report with an ending balance of 1,675,642.11 including a CD
Approved the payment of bills through July 16, 2024
Approved the departmental reports
Approved Resolution 2024-008 Special Assessment for Weed treatment for Barron Lake
Approved Planning Commission denial of rezoning request
Approved Articles of incorporation for SMCAS ambulance
Adjourn the meeting at 7:31p.m.

Niles Daily Star:
July 27, 2024
MEETING SYNOPSIS

Put your ad here
call 269-591-6105.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BERRIEN, CASS, AND VAN BUREN COUNTY NOTICE DURING THE DAYS OF JULY 3-6, BERRIEN, CASS, AND VAN BUREN COUNTIES FILED THEIR

NOTICE OF INTENTS TO PREPARE THE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND HAVE BECOME THE COUNTY APPROVAL AGENCIES as required per Part 115, Solid Waste Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act,1994 PA 451, as amended.
Berrien, Cass, and van Buren Counties intend to complete the MMP development as a Multi-county Plan.
Please note that all materials management planning committee meetings are open to the public and notices of these meetings shall be found at the following: www.swmpc.org In addition, each municipality will receive notice and may have the meeting notices available on their websites as well.
Direct questions to Bekah Schrag at Southwest Michigan Planning Commission at (269) 925-1137 ext. 1521 or by email at: schragb@swmpc.org

Niles Daily Star:
July 27, 2024
NOTICE OF INTENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

AUCTION

Niles Storage, 2457 Yankee St., Niles, MI 49120
August 3, 2024 @ 4:00 pm
Owners lien - overdue rents

Unit # 52 Brandon Szymonski

Niles Daily Star
July 20 and 27, 2024
STORAGE AUCTION

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1 The HughesNet Gen5 service plans are designed to deliver download speeds of 25 Mbps and upload speeds of 3 Mbps, but individual customers may experience different speeds at different times of the day. Speeds and uninterrupted use are not guaranteed and may vary based on a variety of factors including: the configuration of your computer, the number of concurrent users, network or Internet congestion, the capabilities and content of the Websites you are accessing, network management practices as deemed necessary, and other factors. When you connect to the HughesNet service using Wi-Fi, your experience will vary based on your proximity to the Wi-Fi source and the strength of the signal.
2. **Free standard installation** applies to new Lease subscribers only. Not valid with Purchase option. Limited-time offer. Restrictions may apply.
3. Per the "5th, 6th, 7th and 8th FCC Measuring Broadband American Reports." Go to: https://www.hughes.com/who-we-are/resources/press-releases/
- Minimum term required. Monthly service and early termination fees apply. Visit legal.HughesNet.com for details.
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Just in!!
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Dang it is a sweet beetle with only 42,000 miles
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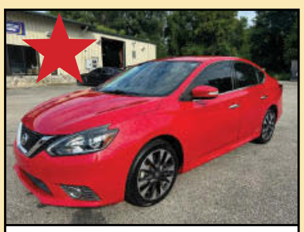

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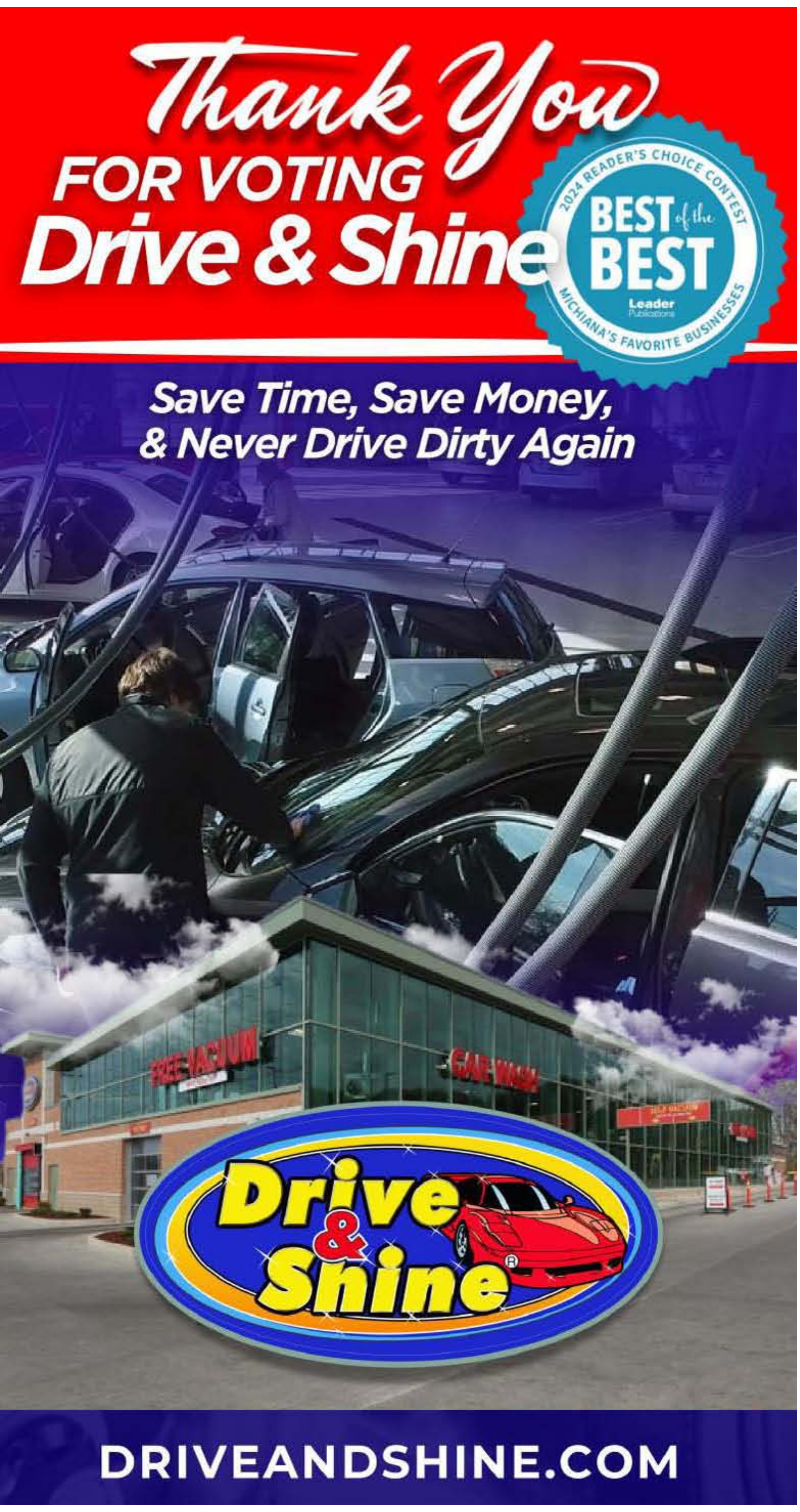
BEST OF MICHIANA | 2024 RESULTS

2024 READER'S CHOICE CONTEST
BEST of the BEST
Leader Publications
MICHIANA'S FAVORITE BUSINESSES

LeaderPublications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Leader Publications
MICHIANA'S FAVORITE BUSINESSES

Red Shoe Realty
269-262-0189
www.RedShoeRealty1.com
922 S 11th St
Niles MI.

Located at 922 S 11th St. in the heart of Niles, the newly updated building with its distinctive red chimney is home to Red Shoe Realty. This new brokerage is making waves with its blend of traditional values and real estate expertise. Founded by Jennifer Inman, a dedicated realtor with nearly 20 years of experience in Southwest Michigan, Red Shoe Realty offers honest, professional service. Jen is proud to work alongside her mother, Nancy Scheetz, who has supported this vision for 11 years, and her daughter, Rachael Inman, making it a three-generation team.

A Growing Office

Red Shoe Realty quickly expanded with the addition of two more dedicated professionals, Cloe Mittan and Jamie Tolosa. Adding excitement, commitment and expertise to the team. This dynamic group works collaboratively to meet the diverse needs of the community and their clients.

The Story Behind the Name

The name "Red Shoe Realty" carries heartfelt meaning. Inspired by client gifts of stepping stones inscribed with "There's No Place Like Home," and evoking memories of Dorothy's red shoes from "The Wizard of Oz," the name symbolizes the company's dedication to guiding clients home and ensuring they always feel at home.

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Community

BEST PLACE TO WORK IN BUCHANAN

- Winner: Fernwood Botanical Garden
- Finalist: Honor Credit Union
- Finalist: Smoke Vision Care

BEST PLACE TO WORK IN CASSOPOLIS

- Winner: Honor Credit Union
- Finalist: Midwest Energy & Communications
- Finalist: The Twirl

BEST PLACE TO WORK IN DOWAGIAC

- Winner: Sister Lakes Brewing Company
- Finalist: Honor Credit Union
- Finalist: Lyons Industries Inc.

BEST PLACE TO WORK IN EDWARDSBURG

- Winner: Garver Grooming
- Finalist: Honor Credit Union
- Finalist: North American Forest Products

BEST PLACE TO WORK IN NILES

- Winner: Brentwood at Niles Senior Living
- Finalist: Honor Credit Union
- Finalist: Iron Shoe Distillery
- Finalist: Pizza Transit

CHURCH

- Winner: Hope Community Church
- Finalist: Granger Community Church
- Finalist: Summit Church

NON-PROFIT

- Winner: Fernwood Botanical Garden
- Finalist: Kari Cares Grief Support Center
- Finalist: Niles-Buchanan YMCA

Dining & Entertainment

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT VENUE

- Winner: Sister Lakes Brewing Company
- Finalist: Bee Crafty
- Finalist: Iron Shoe Distillery

ASIAN FOOD

- Winner: Ho Ping Garden
- Finalist: Hot Wok
- Finalist: Juicy Buffet

Real Estate Agency

Red Shoe Realty
269-262-0189

Thank you for voting us Michiana's #1 REAL ESATE AGENCY and also your #1 top choice REALTORS in 2024!!!

We are incredibly honored and grateful for your support!! This recognition is a testament to our dedication and hard work. We couldn't have achieved this without our fantastic clients and the community we serve.

We look forward to continuing to help you achieve your real estate goals.

Realtors

922 S 11th St., Niles

Jennifer Inman Nancy Scheetz Rachael Inman Jamie Tolosa Cloë Mittan

THIS IS OUR HOME!

Thank you does not begin to cover the amount of appreciation that I have for everyone who voted for us.

My name is Stephenie Craft. I am the administrator at Riveridge in Niles, Mi. It is a privilege to be able to write this letter and acknowledge the staff and residents here.

It was an honor to just be nominated for "Best of the Best." Then to make it to the voting and place in the top three in both categories was a true testament to the staff and residents of our facility.

Riveridge has come a long way in a brief time. We have and are continuing to make many changes. Being nominated and then voted for acknowledges the impact that we are making in our community_and_within our facility.

For most facilities, the phrase "This is their home" is meant for the residents. They are the ones who live here. However, here at Rive ridge, we say "This is our home." Yes, the residents live here, but for most of us, we are here more than we are at home. The residents and staff members become part of our family. We cry when they cry and laugh when they laugh.

As with any family, we make mistakes. We are human. We learn from our mistakes and make the changes we need to make to keep everyone here safe, comfortable, and content. We are establishing new goals and driving the facility to a better future.

Because of your votes, I know we are headed in the right direction. We are planning several community activities that will include family members, residents, and staff. From cookouts and holidays to appreciation days and birthdays, we want to ensure that everyone enjoys their time here.

We have an amazing Rehabilitation program that has enhanced the going home experience for our short timers. We improved our dietary department and serve delicious meals that are healthy and meet the needs of all the residents. Our Social Worker is top notch and is in communication with home care agencies as well as community partners to make the return home easier and better. She collaborates with the long-term residents to improve their stay and makes the quality of life here at Riveridge the best it can be. The Nursing Staff is also_improving. We have an amazing wound program and have improved all around care for our residents.

I came to this facility in late November. In my short time here, I have seen so many improvements, not just with the staff but the building itself. The new maintenance director is amazing at what she does. We have plans to renovate the building and make it more homelike and comfortable for all who choose to call this place home. The changes happening at Riveridge are reflected in our residents. Whether they go out into the community or have a heavenly homecoming. Our improved care and aesthetics are making a difference for all who call this home.

Welcome to
River Ridge

This is our home! We take pride in the work that we do. Our love shows in the passion and dedication that shines through to our residents and the community that we live in and serve. Words cannot express how much your votes mean to us. Rive ridge is making changes and improving the quality of life for our residents, and you are seeing it.

Welcome to our home!! Should you ever need us, our doors are always open to you and yours.

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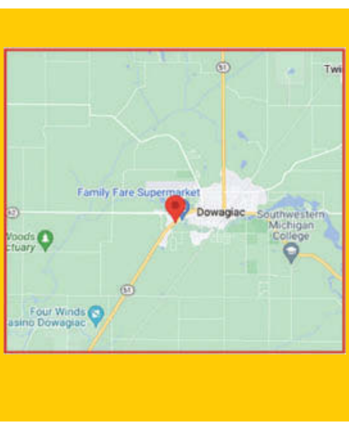
Family Fare Supermarket
Dowagiac
Southwestern Michigan College
Four Winds Casino Dowagiac

**EASY TO FIND
TOUGH TO BEAT
269-462-9263**

BAKERY
- Winner: The Bakers Rhapsody
- Finalist: Cafe Italiano at The Sweet Shop
- Finalist: Divine Dough Co

BBQ
- Winner: Curly Q's BBQ
- Finalist: Jim's Smokin' Cafe
- Finalist: Sister Lakes Brewing Company

BEST PLACE TO BUY CHOCOLATE
- Winner: Veni's Sweet Shop
- Finalist: Caruso Candy & Soda Fountain Since 1922
- Finalist: South Bend Chocolate Cafe

BEST RESTAURANT IN CASSOPOLIS
- Winner: Lindy's Restaurant
- Finalist: Stone lake bar and grill
- Finalist: The Twirl

BEST RESTAURANT IN DOWAGIAC
- Winner: Sister Lakes Brewing Company
- Finalist: Oak and Ash BBQ & Catering
- Finalist: Wood Fire Trattoria

BEST RESTAURANT IN EDWARDSBURG
- Winner: Fat Cams at Garver Lake
- Winner: Flat Rock Grill
- Winner: Stacy's Food & Spirits

BEST RESTAURANT IN NILES
- Winner: Shoe Distillery
- Finalist: Pizza Transit
- Finalist: Pizza Transit

BREAKFAST
- Winner: Rise N Shine Cafe
- Finalist: 2nd & Main Coffeehouse
- Finalist: Prime Table Restaurant

BREWERY
- Winner: Sister Lakes Brewing Company
- Finalist: Niles Brewing Company
- Finalist: River Saint Joe

BURGER
- Winner: Iron Shoe Distillery
- Finalist: Old Tavern Inn
- Finalist: Sister Lakes Brewing Company

CANNABIS
- Winner: Twisted Bee
- Finalist: Green Stem Provisioning
- Finalist: Primitiv Group Niles

CASINO
- Winner: Four Winds Casino South Bend
- Finalist: Blue Chip Casino Hotel Spa
- Finalist: Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort
- Finalist: Turtle Creek Casino & Hotel

CATERING
- Winner: Jim's Smokin' Cafe
- Finalist: Capri Italian Restaurant South Bend
- Finalist: SugarElla's Catering

COFFEE OR TEA
- Winner: 2nd & Main Coffeehouse
- Finalist: Apothica Teas
- Finalist: Brew Ha Ha

DESSERT
- Winner: Venis Sweet Shop
- Finalist: Capri Italian Restaurant South Bend
- Finalist: Iron Shoe Distillery

DISTILLERY
- Winner: Iron Shoe Distillery
- Finalist: Journeyman Distillery
- Finalist: The Indiana Whiskey Company

FAMILY RESTAURANT
- Winner: Sister Lakes Brewing Company
- Finalist: Iron Shoe Distillery
- Finalist: Pizza Transit

FRENCH FRIES
- Winner: Iron Shoe Distillery
- Finalist: Jays Lounge
- Finalist: Wings Etc.

GARDEN OR PARK
- Winner: Fernwood Botanical Garden
- Finalist: Potawatomi Zoo
- Finalist: Riverfront Park

GOLF COURSE
- Winner: Orchard Hills Country Club
- Finalist: Diamond Lake Golf Club
- Finalist: Plym Park Golf Course

ICE CREAM OR FROZEN YOGURT

- Winner: Cafe Italiano at The Sweet Shop
- Finalist: Caruso Candy & Soda Fountain Since 1922
- Finalist: Jim's Smokin' Cafe

INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCE

- Winner: Bee Crafty
- Finalist: Fernwood Botanical Garden
- Finalist: Potawatomi Zoo

ITALIAN FOOD

- Winner: Capri Italian Restaurant South Bend
- Finalist: Cafe Italiano at The Sweet Shop
- Finalist: Pizza Transit LLC

MEXICAN FOOD

- Winner: Taqueria Don Chepe
- Finalist: El Amigo Pepe
- Finalist: El Rancho Viejo Niles

OUTDOOR DINING

- Winner: Sister Lakes Brewing Company
- Finalist: Iron Shoe Distillery
- Finalist: River Saint Joe

PIZZA

- Winner: Pizza Transit
- Finalist: Front Street Pizza Pub
- Finalist: Propaganda Pizza

Michiana Heating and Air conditioning

Michiana Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc. is a family owned and operated small business that employs only the best in the business. We have been servicing the entire greater Michiana area for over 30 years. We would like to thank our customers and all of the communities we service for your ongoing business and support throughout the years.

Our mission is to provide you with the highest quality of customer service and installation for your family's complete home comfort. We are proud to offer you the widest variety of Heating, Cooling & Indoor Air Quality products from the industry's leading manufacturers as well as honest, trustworthy, and reliable services. We offer competitive pricing with a solution to fit everyone's budget, in addition to multiple financing options.

Our team of experts welcomes the opportunity to serve your needs and assist you with maintenance, repair, or installation. We offer SAME DAY 24-7 Emergency Services, FREE ESTIMATES & FREE 2ND OPINIONS on replacements and we DO NOT CHARGE more for after-hours emergency service calls!

Michiana Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc. is extremely proud to have received our 10th Best of the Best Award as well as our 10th Carrier President's Award in 2024. The Carrier President's Award is a prestigious annual award that is given to Carrier Factory Authorized Dealers who demonstrate excellence in customer relations and service. The award was established in 2007 and is Carrier's highest honor for its dealers. Winners are held up to other dealers as an example of excellence and are expected to inspire other dealers to emulate them. Fewer than 1,500 Carrier dealers qualify for the award each year.

For the quality and comfort, you and your family deserve, turn to your local hometown experts at Michiana Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc. for all of your Heating, Cooling and Indoor Air Quality needs!

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Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

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Follow us on Facebook and Instagram-to stay updated on all the exciting things to come!

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Congratulations SoulSkin Aesthetics @ Luminous Suites for being named Best Spa!

2024 READER'S CHOICE CONTEST BEST of the BEST Leader Publications MICHIANA'S FAVORITE BUSINESSES

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Autumn Spitler
&
Haley Davis-Wilson

Congratulations to Hailee Rager, Alexis Grimes and Danielle Brown for being named Best of The Best Stylist. We are so grateful to have such an amazing dedicated group of women at Luminous.

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ROMANTIC DINNER

- Winner: The Embers at Signal Point
- Finalist: Capri Italian Restaurant South Bend
- Finalist: Copper Rock Steakhouse South Bend

SANDWICH

- Winner: Sister Lakes Brewing Company
- Finalist: Iron Shoe Distillery
- Finalist: Old Tavern Inn

SEAFOOD

- Winner: Bonefish Grill
- Finalist: Capri Italian Restaurant South Bend
- Finalist: Iron Shoe Distillery
- Finalist: Juicy Buffet

SERVER

- Winner: Kalynn @ Wings Etc.
- Finalist: Payton @ Jim's Smokin' Cafe
- Finalist: Terri @ wings Etc

STEAK

- Winner: Jim's Smokin' Cafe
- Finalist: Copper Rock Steakhouse South Bend
- Finalist: Texas Roadhouse

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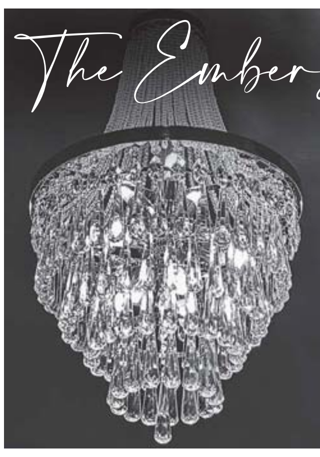

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SWEETS

- Winner: Veni's Sweet Shop
- Finalist: Cafe Italiano at The Sweet Shop
- Finalist: Caruso Candy & Soda Fountain Since 1922
- Finalist: Market 2555 LLC

VEGETARIAN FOOD

- Winner: Iron Shoe Distillery
- Finalist: Pizza Transit
- Finalist: The Rage

WINERY

- Winner: Round Barn Winery & Estate
- Finalist: St. Julian Winery & Distillery Tasting Room
- Finalist: Tabor Hill Winery & Restaurant

WINGS

- Winner: Wings Etc.
- Finalist: Curly Q's BBQ
- Finalist: Iron Shoe Distillery

Education

-

COLLEGE

- Winner: Southwestern Michigan College Niles
- Finalist: Lake Michigan College
- Finalist: Andrews University

DAY CARE

- Winner: YMCA of Greater Michiana Child Care & Preschool
- Finalist: Northside Child Development Center
- Finalist: The Children's Center

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Winner: Brandywine Elementary School.
- Finalist: Ballard Elementary School
- Finalist: Howard Elementary School

HIGH SCHOOL

- Winner: Brandywine Middle/ Senior High School
- Finalist: Union High School
- Finalist: Niles High School

LIBRARY

- Winner: Niles District Library
- Finalist: Buchanan District Library
- Finalist: Cass District Library Main Branch

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Winner: Brandywine Middle/ Senior High School
- Finalist: Ring Lardner Middle School

Twisted Bee

Twisted Bee would like to thank everyone for selecting us as their #1 cannabis store in Southwest Michigan! We are honored to accept this and are so grateful to everyone involved for making this happen. It all started with the wonderful welcoming the community gave to us when we opened in October. Since then, we've only felt more welcomed and support.

Here are some words from our staff reacting to this news! From Dispensary Supervisor George: "We have the best of the best community and customers, who have shown us endless support. A very good clientele to be able to deal with and we're hoping to come more into the community and show the same love and support they're showing to us. Happy to be here, happy to be a part of what we're doing, happy to be the Twisted Bee! Hoping that everyone is enjoying it as much as we're enjoying working with the customers. Best people I've ever worked with and best customers... Customers come in happy, and even if they don't, they always leave with a smile. I can't ask for anything better, honestly." From Team Lead Boogie: "It lets us know we're doing the right things in the right places. Getting stuff done, getting stuff in and out of here. Our customer service... Probably our best thing other than our products. We make everyone feel like they're at home." From Team Lead Yaz: "I'm just super excited because this is a big milestone for Dowagiac. Us not being open a full year is major and I'm excited to see what the next couple of months are going to bring!" From Team Lead TK: "Just glad to be in my own hometown, serving my own people. We have a really great team that's very passionate!" From Budtender Sonja: "I think it's awesome and exciting that we got it with us being open less than a year!" None of this would be possible without the dedication of our staff.

2024 READER'S CHOICE CONTEST
BEST of the BEST
Leader Publications
MICHIANA'S FAVORITE BUSINESSES

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CANNABIS
WE ARE
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Health & Wellness

AUDIOLOGIST

- Winner: Hear Michigan Centers - Dowagiac
- Winner: West Michigan Hearing Specialists
- Finalist: Heidi Schmeltzer

CARDIOVASCULAR CARE

- Winner: Corewell Health Lakeland Hospitals Niles Hospital
- Finalist: Beacon Health System
- Finalist: Bronson advanced Cardiac Healthcare

CHIROPRACTOR

- Winner: Pure Motion Chiropractic
- Finalist: Alternative Wellness Center
- Finalist: Clear Choice Chiropractic Center

DENTISTS OFFICE

- Winner: Niles Dental Associates Kyle McGill DDS
- Finalist: Cassopolis Dental
- Finalist: Dowagiac Family Dentistry

DERMATOLOGIST

- Winner: Corewell Health Dermatology - Niles
- Winner: Stonegate Dermatology and Medical Spa
- Finalist: The South Bend Clinic - Dermatology

EYE CARE PROVIDER

- Winner: Smoke Vision Care
- Finalist: Great Lakes Eye Care
- Finalist: Niles Vision Clinic

FAMILY DOCTORS OFFICE

- Winner: Longmeadow Niles
- Finalist: Redbud Health Services
- Finalist: The South Bend Clinic - Family Medicine

FITNESS CLASSES

- Winner: Redbud Fitness & Lifestyle Center
- Finalist: Niles-Buchanan YMCA
- Finalist: SLR Pilates

GERIATRIC CARE

- Winner: Brentwood at Niles Senior Living
- Finalist: Riveridge Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center
- Finalist: The Timbers of Cass County

HEARING AID

- Winner: Beltone Hearing Aid Center
- Winner: Miracle-Ear Hearing Aid Center

HOSPITAL

- Winner: Corewell Health Lakeland Hospitals Niles Hospital
- Finalist: Beacon Health System - Memorial Hospital
- Finalist: Memorial Hospital

LOCAL GYM

- Winner: Elevate 24 SLR
- Finalist: Niles-Buchanan YMCA
- Finalist: Redbud Fitness & Lifestyle Center

MEDICAL FACILITY

- Winner: Redbud Health Services
- Finalist: Beacon Health Systems
- Finalist: Corewell Health Lakeland Hospitals Niles Hospital

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YOU VOTED US BEST:

- ☑ Credit Union
- ☑ Place for a Car Loan
- ☑ Mortgage Lender

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Martin's Supermarket

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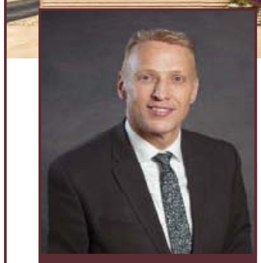

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Brown
FUNERAL HOME
& CREMATION SERVICES

ONCOLOGY CARE

- Winner: Corewell Health Medical Oncology & Hematology Program - Lemmen-Holton
- Finalist: Michiana Hematology Oncology

ORTHODONTIST

- Winner: Wnek Family Orthodontics
- Finalist: Harrington Orthodontics
- Finalist: South Bend Dental & Orthodontics

ORTHOPEDICS

- Winner: South Bend Orthopaedics
- Finalist: OSMC Goshen
- Finalist: Thomas Bemenderfer M.D.

PEDIATRICIANS OFFICE

- Winner: Dr. Leanne M. Miller MD
- Finalist: Michiana Pediatrics
- Finalist: M. Heffron PA

PHARMACY

- Winner: NILES WELLCARE PHARMACY
- Finalist: Martins Pharmacy
- Finalist: Walmart Pharmacy

PHYSICAL THERAPIST

- Winner: Brentwood at Niles Senior Living
- Finalist: Elite Aesthetics Michiana
- Finalist: Redbud Health Services

PODIATRIST

- Winner: William H. Fox DPM - Niles Foot Clinic PC
- Finalist: Jeffrey Biever DPM
- Finalist: Sandra A. Cho DPM

SENIOR LIVING FACILITY

- Winner: Brentwood at Niles Senior Living
- Finalist: The Timbers of Cass County
- Finalist: Woodland Terrace at Longmeadow
- Finalist: North Woods Village at Edison Lakes

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URGENT CARE

- Winner: WellNow Urgent Care
- Finalist: Corewell Health Lakeland Hospitals Niles Hospital
- Finalist: Memorial Hospital

WEIGHT LOSS CENTER

- Winner: Candescent Health and Wellness
- Finalist: Redbud Fitness & Lifestyle Center
- Finalist: Redbud Health Services

WOMENS CLINIC

- Winner: Candescent Health and Wellness
- Finalist: Michiana Obstetrics & Gynecology
- Finalist: Redbud Health Services
-

Lifestyle & Services

ACCOUNTANT

- Winner: Balanced Accounting & Tax Services
- Finalist: Scarpone & Co
- Finalist: Wooden Accounting

ATTORNEY

- Winner: Lebbin Law Office
- Finalist: Armstrong Betker & Schaeffer PLC
- Finalist: Duncan & Associates PLLC

AUTO BODY SHOP

- Winner: Grant Street Auto Service
- Finalist: Dowagiac Auto Body
- Finalist: Precision Auto & Body

AUTO SERVICES

- Winner: Clark's Service
- Finalist: Drive & Shine
- Finalist: Grant Street Auto Service

BANK

- Winner: Huntington Bank
- Finalist: 1st Source Bank
- Finalist: Sturgis Bank

BARBER

- Winner: Joes Barber & Style Shoppe
- Finalist: Bakeman Barbers
- Finalist: Lights Barber Styling

CAR LOAN

- Winner: Honor Credit Union
- Finalist: Circle Federal Credit Union
- Finalist: United Federal Credit Union

Honor Credit Union: Celebrating 90 Years of Commitment to Community

From the moment they opened their doors 90 years ago, Honor Credit Union has always prioritized putting people first. As a not-for-profit institution, Honor is completely owned by its members, not outside shareholders. As a result, every decision is guided with the best interests of their members in mind, emphasizing a commitment to serve individual needs with personalized solutions. This resonates throughout their culture and is evident in every member center throughout their 28 locations in Michigan.

Through the years, Honor has continually evolved to meet the needs of their members. With access to local fee-free ATMs and over 30,000 affiliated ATMs nationwide, their members enjoy seamless access to their finances wherever they go. Whether their members take advantage of their high-yield checking accounts or competitively low loan rates, Honor's commitment to member satisfaction has remained steadfast throughout its history.

"It's incredibly humbling to be part of an organization with a 90-year tradition of putting our members first," says Scott McFarland, Honor's CEO. "Our dedication to providing individualized financial solutions and compassionate care for all is at the heart of everything we do. This enduring commitment has guided us as we grow and continue to meet the needs of our members and serve our communities. We are eternally grateful!"

Honor Credit Union's commitment to excellence extends beyond mere transactions. They are dedicated to making a positive impact by giving back to their members and supporting the causes they care about. Whether displaying random acts of kindness or supporting non-profits, they are passionate about sponsoring and partnering with local organizations. In 2023 alone, they donated $734,293, supporting 669 community organizations in the areas their member centers serve. Giving back to the community is strongly infused in every aspect of Honor's culture, as Honor Team Members are encouraged to volunteer to strengthen the prosperity of the towns where they live and work. In 2023, Honor Team Members devoted 3,264 volunteer hours to serving the community and raised $27,000 for United Way.

While Honor now has locations all over Michigan, they serve each community with the same intimate care as when they opened their doors 90 years ago. With humble beginnings as Berrien Teacher's Credit Union, Honor has a long-standing tradition of supporting education in the community. In 2023, Honor awarded $28,000 in scholarships to help local students achieve their educational dreams. They also granted $15,000 to teachers as part of their Annual Teacher Awards Program to help fund classroom improvements. Honor Credit Union's unwavering dedication to education and community partnership is a testament to its mission of supporting people first and positively impacting members' lives.

At the heart of Honor Credit Union, are its core commitments, which drive its mission forward. These commitments focus on creating a strong foundation for the future, starting with the development and engagement of its team members. They realize that the goal of putting members first also means taking care of their entire team, as indicated by being recognized as a finalist for the "Best Place to Work" category in The Leader's Best of the Best this year.

"Our culture at Honor is truly unique and sets us apart. We foster an environment of innovation, engagement, collaboration, and fun," says VP of People Resources, Jessica Kehrer. "By nurturing this vibrant culture, we ensure that our team members are inspired and empowered to deliver the extraordinary service that Honor Credit Union is known for."

The recent recognition with the Best of the Best award in the categories of "Best Credit Union," "Best Place for a Car Loan," and "Best Mortgage Lender," serves as a testament to Honor Credit Union's commitment to excellence and community impact.

"We are truly honored by the recent Best of the Best Awards recognition, which reflects our dedication to serving our members and deep-rooted connection with the community," shares Honor CEO, Scott McFarland. "We appreciate everyone who voted and continues to trust us as a financial partner and community advocate, thank you for being the heart of Honor Credit Union's success."

Looking forward, Honor Credit Union remains committed to fostering financial well-being and community prosperity. For those seeking a trusted financial partner or ways to make a positive difference in their community, Honor Credit Union invites them to "Come Be Part of It" and join in building a brighter future. Together, the entire Honor team aspires to enrich lives and help its members achieve their financial dreams by adhering to people-first values that will continue to define their mission into the next 90 years.

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- Hardware Repair
- Audio Solutions
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CAR WASH

- Winner: Drive & Shine Car Wash and Oil Change
- Finalist: Schilling Wash & Wax
- Finalist: Sparkle & Shine Car Wash

CARPET CLEANING SERVICE

- Winner: Michiana Sanitation Specialist
- Finalist: A2Z Carpet Cleaning
- Finalist: Crimmins Carpet Services
- Finalist: Ionic Fresh
- Finalist: Terrys Cleaning & Restoration

CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

- Winner: Astrong Construction LLC
- Finalist: Affordable Lawn Care Solutions
- Finalist: Arrow Fence & Gate LLC

CREDIT UNION

- Winner: Honor Credit Union
- Finalist: Circle Federal Credit Union
- Finalist: United Federal Credit Union

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St Joseph, 2121 S. Cleveland Ave.
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Granger, 12850 SR 23
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Contact Information:
Jen Hack
Director of Sales
and Marketing
Phone: 269-684-9470
Email:
jhack@prioritylc.com

2024 READER'S CHOICE CONTEST
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DANCE STUDIO

- Winner: Miss Michele and Co.
- Finalist: Footprints Dance Studio
- Finalist: Green Dance Academy

FUNERAL HOME

- Winner: Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services
- Finalist: Hoven Funeral Home
- Finalist: Starks Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services-Starks & Menchinger Chapel

HAIR SALON

- Winner: Luminous Hair Spa
- Finalist: Beauty Bar 201
- Finalist: Salon 414

HAIR STYLIST

- Winner: Hailee @ Luminous
- Finalist: Alexis @ Luminous
- Finalist: Danielle @ Luminous

HEATING & COOLING SERVICE

- Winner: Michiana Heating & Air Conditioning
- Finalist: Great Lakes Heating And Air Conditioning
- Finalist: Roberts Service Co

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INSURANCE AGENT

- Winner: Jessica Massey - State Farm Insurance Agent
- Finalist: Greg Osborn - State Farm Insurance Agent
- Finalist: Hagen Insurance Agency - Meemic Insurance Agent
- Finalist: Joe Jilek - State Farm Insurance Agent
- Finalist: Patsy Sears - State Farm Insurance Agent

INSURANCE COMPANY

- Winner: State Farm
- Finalist: Allstate
- Finalist: Farm Bureau
- Finalist: Farmers Insurance

INVESTMENT FIRM

- Winner: Edward Jones - Financial Advisor: Becky Brown CFP®|AAMS|CRPC
- Finalist: Edward Jones - Financial Advisor: Gregory A Surber AAMS
- Finalist: Edward Jones - Kim MacGregor
- Finalist: Golden Years Financial Advisors

IT OR COMPUTER SHOP

- Winner: Computer Company CO.
- Finalist: Best Buy

LANDSCAPING

- Winner: Affordable Lawn Care Solutions
- Finalist: Creative Landscaping & Design
- Finalist: Villwock's Outdoor Living

MORTGAGE LENDER

- Winner: Honor Credit Union
- Finalist: Circle Federal Credit Union
- Finalist: United Federal Credit Union

NAIL SALON

- Winner: Luminous Hair Spa
- Finalist: Beauty Bar 201
- Finalist: Nails by Hol

OIL CHANGE

- Winner: Clarks Service
- Finalist: Drive & Shine Car Wash and Oil Change
- Finalist: Grant Street Auto Service

PET SERVICES OR GROOMER

- Winner: Blue Paw Pet Spa
- Finalist: Garver Grooming
- Finalist: Shampoochie Dog Salon

PHOTOGRAPHER

- Winner: Danielle Sergio Photography
- Finalist: Blue Print Photography
- Finalist: On Base Productions

PLUMBER

- Winner: Advantage Plumbing Inc.
- Finalist: Niezgodski Plumbing
- Finalist: Peach Mechanical

REAL ESTATE AGENCY

- Winner: Red Shoe Realty
- Finalist: Horizon Realty Group
- Finalist: Integrity Real Estate Professionals ERA Powered

REALTOR

- Winner: Red Shoe Realty
- Finalist: Integrity Real Estate Professionals ERA Powered
- Finalist: Kyle Zelmer

SENIOR SERVICES

- Winner: Brentwood at Niles Senior Living
- Finalist: PACE of Southwest Michigan
- Finalist: Riveridge Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center

SEPTIC SERVICE

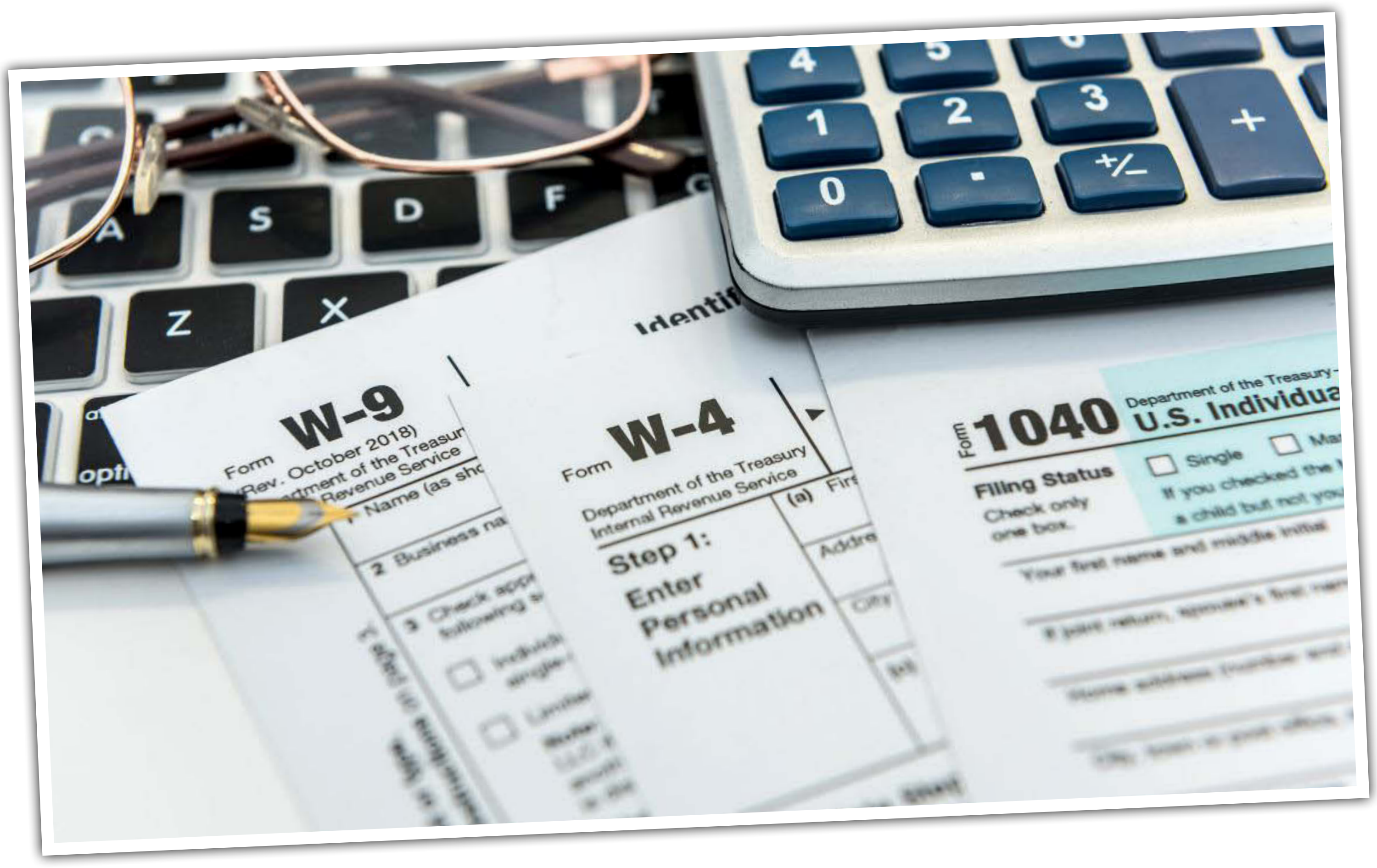
- Winner: Krueger's Septic Services
- Finalist: Dig-It Excavating Inc.
- Finalist: Pump That Septic

SPA OR MASSAGE

- Winner: Soulskin Aesthetics
- Finalist: Bar 201
- Finalist: Massage Life

TANNING SALON (ALTERNATIVE)

- Winner: Beauty Bar 201
- Finalist: Fun Tan
- Finalist: Tans Down Under



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- Profit Sharing
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- Military Pay

TANNING SALON (UV)

- Winner: Fun Tan
- Finalist: Tans Down Under
-
- Tattoo Parlor
- Winner: Luminous Hair Spa
- Finalist: Beyond Ink & Art
- Finalist: Hell or high water tattoo

TAX SERVICES

- Winner: Balanced Accounting & Tax Services
- Finalist: H&R Block
- Finalist: Scarpone & Co

VETERINARIAN

- Winner: Bergman Veterinary Medical Center
- Finalist: Dr. Diane Williams DVM The Country Doctor
- Finalist: Fedore Large Animal Veterinary Services

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Winner: LRS Formerly Michiana Recycling & Disposal

WEDDING VENUE

- Winner: The Grand LV
- Finalist: Fernwood Botanical Garden
- Finalist: Sister Lakes Brewing Company
- Finalist: The Embers at Signal Point

Retail

ANTIQUE SHOP

- Winner: Four Flags Antiques
- Finalist: Pickers Paradise
- Finalist: Main Street Antique Mall

APPLIANCE STORE

- Winner: Camden Appliance Niles
- Finalist: Bills Appliances
- Finalist: Home Improvement

BOOKSTORE

- Winner: Casperson Books
- Finalist: Glendora Bookshop
- Finalist: Market 2555 LLC

BUTCHER OR MEAT DEPARTMENT

- Winner: Lowery Meat & Seafood
- Finalist: Eby's Old Fashion Meat Market
- Finalist: Shelton's Farm Market

CARPET & FLOORING STORE

- Winner: Hams Home Improvements
- Finalist: Abbey Carpet & Floor
- Finalist: Shillings Carpets & Floors

CONSIGNMENT SHOP

- Winner: Pickers Paradise Antique Mall
- Finalist: Four Flags Antiques
- Finalist: WHO KNEW? Consignment

FARMERS MARKET OR FRUIT STAND

- Winner: Buchanan Farmers Market
- Finalist: Shelton's Farm Market
- Finalist: South Bend Farmers Market

FLOWER SHOP

- Winner: Flowers by Anna - Buchanan
- Finalist: Buchanan Floral Company & Greenhouses
- Finalist: East Main Gardens Florist & Greenhouses Inc

FURNITURE OR DÉCOR

- Winner: Pickers Paradise Antique Mall
- Finalist: Four Flags Antiques
- Finalist: Imperial Furniture

GARDEN CENTER

- Winner: Vite Greenhouses
- Finalist: Ecklers Produce & Greenhouse
- Finalist: Varner's Greenhouse & Nursery

GIFT SHOP

- Winner: Market 2555 LLC
- Finalist: Fernwood Botanical Garden
- Finalist: Pickers Paradise Antique Mall

GROCERY STORE

- Winner: Martin's Super Market
- Finalist: Harding's
- Finalist: Shelton's Farm Market
-

HARDWARE STORE

- Winner: Redbud Hardware
- Finalist: Hales True Value Hardware
- Finalist: Lowes Home Improvement
-
- Hunting & Fishing
- Winner: Rusty Hooks Bait & Tackle
- Finalist: Walmart

LIQUOR STORE

- Winner: Crockers Party Store
- Finalist: Martins Super Market
- Finalist: Mega Liquor Store

LUMBER YARD

- Winner: Lowes Home Improvement
- Finalist: Big C Lumber
- Finalist: Menards

MARINA

- Winner: Diamond Lake Marina
- Finalist: Clear Water Marina
- Finalist: Eagle Lake Marine Inc

MATTRESS STORE

- Winner: Mattress Warehouse
- Finalist: Big Lots
- Finalist: Mattress Firm Clearance Center Grape Road

MOTORCYCLE OR ATV DEALER

- Winner: McDaniels Harley-Davidson
- Winner: North End Cycle Shop Honda Service
- Finalist: Elkhart Indian Motorcycle

NEW CAR DEALERSHIP

- Winner: Tyler KIA
- Finalist: Campbell Ford
- Finalist: Tyler Chrysler Dodge Jeep RAM

ORGANIC FOOD

- Winner: Fresh Thyme Market
- Finalist: Lowery Meat & Seafood
- Finalist: Shelton's Farm Market

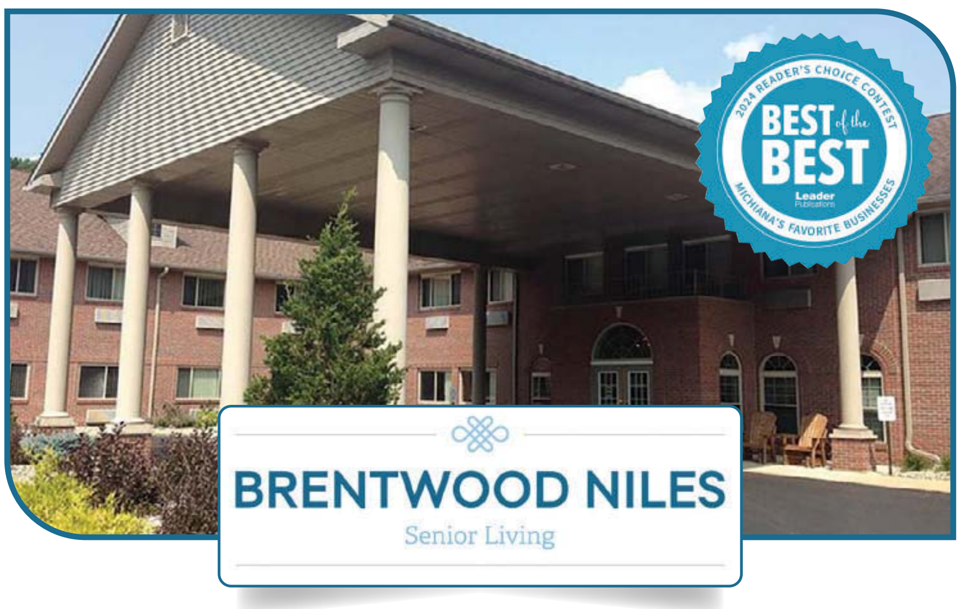
RV DEALER

- Winner: Krenek RV
- Winner: Tiara RV Sales
- Finalist: East To West RV

Thank you for voting for us!

BEST

Geriatric Care
Physical Therapist
Senior Living Facility
Senior Services
Place to Work-Niles



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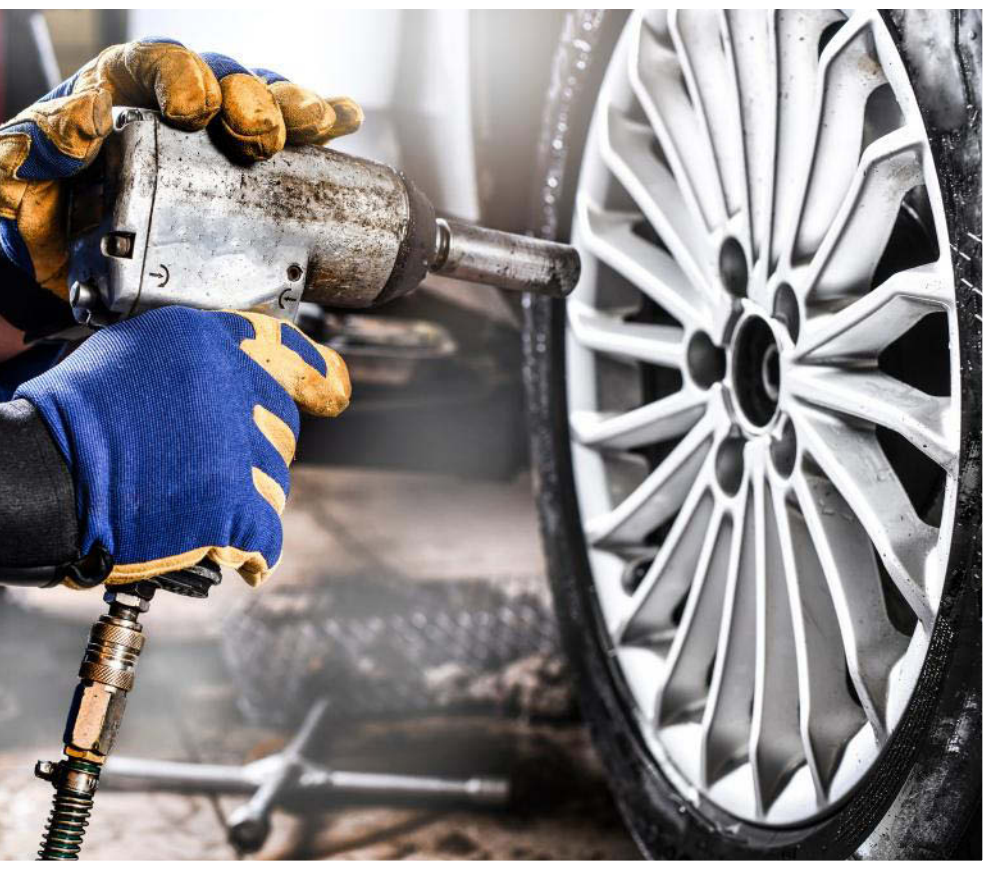

TIRE SHOP

- Winner: Zolman's Best One Tire & Auto Care
- Finalist: D&D Tire & Service
- Finalist: Jackson Tire

USED CAR DEALERSHIP

- Winner: Campbell Ford
- Finalist: Levalley Chevrolet GMC INC
- Finalist: Murdock Used Cars

WINDOWS

- Winner: Hannapel Home Center
- Finalist: Champion Replacement Windows of South Bend
- Finalist: Glass Doctor of Niles MI
- Finalist: Menards

WOMENS APPAREL SHOP

- Winner: Market 2555 LLC
- Finalist: Dani Morgans Boutique
- Finalist: Marshall Shoppe

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Green Stem

Nestled in the heart of Niles, Michigan, Green Stem stands as a testament to family values and community spirit in the burgeoning cannabis industry. Founded by the Lynch family, Green Stem has quickly become a local favorite for both seasoned cannabis enthusiasts and newcomers alike.

Opening in early 2020, Green Stem has established a reputation for quality and reliability in the community. At Green Stem, we pride ourselves on offering a diverse range of high-quality cannabis products. Our carefully curated selection includes everything from premium flower and potent concentrates to delicious edibles and soothing topicals. Each product is chosen with care, ensuring our customers have access to the best that the cannabis market has to offer.

Our family-run business is built on a foundation of trust, transparency, and a deep commitment to our community. Unlike many corporate entities, we are active owners who work daily in our store, participating in the culture and truly understanding the needs of our customers. We keep our money local and are proud to call Niles our home. We are not some out-of-state corporation; we are your neighbors, your friends, and your fellow cannabis consumers.

One of the key aspects that set Green Stem apart is our loyal and excitable customer base. We are grateful for the support of our community, and we strive to give back through various initiatives and events. We are proud supporters of the Ferry Street Resource Center in Niles, working to uplift and enhance our local community. Our customer loyalty program, special promotions, and educational workshops are just a few ways we show our appreciation.

We are incredibly grateful to have been voted The Best of the Best by Southwest Michigan, an honor that reflects our commitment to excellence and our deep connection to the community.

Green Stem is more than just the original 11th Street dispo; it is a place where the community comes together. Our family looks forward to welcoming you and sharing our passion for cannabis in a friendly, approachable environment. Visit us at Green Stem in Niles, MI, and experience the difference of a family-owned business that truly cares.

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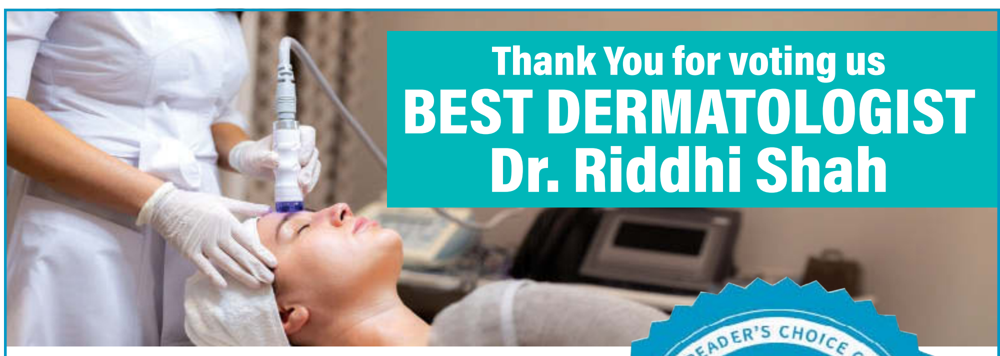

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